Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-218
Monday
15 November 1993

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th: 'Arafat, Rabin To Meet in Cairo 12 Dec

NC1411190893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, said that President 'Arafat will meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo on 12 December to sign the agreement on Israeli withdrawal, in accordance with the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles. In a news conference held in Cairo, Sha'th said that 'Arafat and Rabin may meet earlier than that in order to iron out some difficulties that the current Palestinian-Israeli talks may encounter.

Sha'th said that it is important for the two sides to fulfill the obligations arising from the Declaration of Principles in order to impart credibility to that agreement. Sha'th pointed out that the Palestinian-Israeli reduced committee will continue its meetings in Cairo this week and the next in order to examine ways of resolving the problems facing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

[In a related report from its Cairo correspondent M'utazz al-Damardash, London MBC television at 1800 GMT on 14 November adds: "Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho negotiations, which will resume in Cairo instead of Taba tomorrow, has expressed optimism about peace. He said he has absolutely no doubt that the independent Palestinian state will exist in the future, and that the state of Palestine and the state of Israel will live in peace and engage in neighborly cooperation.

"He added: We have started work toward real peace, and I am sure that we will achieve it in the next three or four years at the latest.

"In his statements today, Dr. Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, stressed the inevitability of convincing the Palestinian public of the fruits of peace through immediate steps that Israel must take. These steps, he explained, include the immediate end of the occupation and the release of Palestinian prisoners. Otherwise, Sha'th said, the Palestinians will not sign the expected peace agreement with Israel in December."]

Meeting Set for 'End of Month'

JN1411134293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Nov 93 pp 28, 24

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] A high-ranking Palestinian source has revealed that the Palestinian delegation to the Taba negotiations rejected an Israeli proposal to release the Palestinian detainees in return for not subjecting the occupation's agents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to accountability when the Palestinian national authority is established.

Having returned from a tour of several states with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, the source told AL-DUSTUR: There are 11,000 Palestinians whom Israel calls "collaborators," but we regard them as traitors who betrayed their cause, homeland, and religion, and who should be punished for the services they rendered to occupation.

It is noteworthy that large numbers of "traitors" fled for fear of the intifadah youths in and outside the occupied Palestinian homeland. The occupation authorities set up two camps for these traitors; the first one in the Fahmah area near the township of 'Arrabah in the Janin District in the occupied West Bank; and the second in Gaza Strip. Thousands of collaborators are residing in the two camps, he added.

Answering a question, the source said: A Palestinian-Israeli summit will be held in Cairo at the end of this month. It will be attended by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin to remove the obstacles impeding a breakthrough in the Taba negotiations.

He added that suspending the negotiations caused balance in the negotiating track by changing the Palestinian delegation in terms of number of members and their specialization. The suspension has also highlighted the principles that will lead to peace and guarantee the unequivocal establishment of an authority that is national both in essence and appearance. The most prominent sign of this is the fact that only the Palestinian side will control the crossing points. Even if there is joint control, it will be done through UN multinational observers, he noted.

The source said: During his visits and contacts, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat obtained French and U.S. approval to dispatch 600-800 observers, whose cost will be paid by their countries, in order to supervise movement across the land, sea, and air crossing points. We will not allow any Israeli soldier to man the crossing points because they will be under our control, he added.

Regarding the so-called security of the settlements and settlers, the source told AL-DUSTUR: It has been agreed that only the Palestinian side will provide security for the settlers in the national authority areas. The settlers' free movement will thus be prevented, and convoys for them will be run according to agreed dates under the protection of the Palestinian security forces, as was the case before 1967 when Jewish trucks carrying supplies to the Hadasah Hospital were allowed to cross from East to West Jerusalem via the Mandelbaum Gate.

It is noteworthy that the Israeli army removed this gate following the occupation of Jerusalem in the June 1967 aggression.

'Amended' Israeli Proposals on Withdrawal Noted

NC1311162393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Tunisia, 13 Nov (MENA)—According to well-informed Palestinian sources, during the meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli reduced committee held in Cairo recently, the Israelis amended their proposals concerning the areas of withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Concerning Gaza, the Israelis agreed to reduce the area of land controlled by the Israelis in the settlement of Gush Qatif and Bene Darom to 35 square km instead of half the area of the Gaza Strip, as the Israelis had requested in the Taba talks. Accordingly, the Israeli army patrols assigned to protect the settlements will operate in a smaller area. The main and general line [al-khatt al-ra'isi wa al-'am] linking Rafah and Gaza will come under Palestinian control.

As for Jericho, the Palestinian sources say that the Israelis agreed to withdraw from an area of 100 square km. Earlier the Israelis expressed readiness to withdraw from only 25 square km of the Jericho area.

'Sources' Give Details of Cairo, Taba Talks

TA1411123793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Nov 93 p 7

[Report by Yo'av Kaspi and Eldad Beck in Cairo]

[Text] The discussions on the implementation of the autonomy arrangements will begin tomorrow, 15 November, and are planned to continue for four days.

On Monday and Tuesday, the talks again will be held in Cairo, where a small team will attempt to work out security issues on which no agreement has yet been reached. On Wednesday, the talks will return to Taba for two more days.

Senior sources in the Israeli delegation last week wished to modify the impression, created in the media by the Palestinian reports, that a real breakthrough was made in the Cairo talks last week. The sources said that, although progress was made, the gaps between the parties' stands are still large. The sources also expressed fear that the talks might continue beyond 13 December, the date set in Oslo for their conclusion.

In the defense discussion in Cairo, Israel's opening stand will speak of placing only eight outposts along the main routes in the Gaza Strip—as opposed to 30 it has originally demanded. Israel also demands that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] remain in control of only 86 square km inside the Gaza Strip; initially, Israel demanded 160 square km. Also, a discussion is expected on restrictions on Palestinian traffic and construction in the areas adjacent to the border fence around the Qatif Bloc, after Israel went back on its demand that a 1-km-wide strip along the fence be demilitarized. Another issue, which was raised in the last round of talks and is to be discussed in depth next week, regards the border crossing from Rafah to Egypt. Israel is rejecting the Palestinian demand for control over the border crossing, demanding that the IDF remain in control there. It is possible that the parties will reach a compromise regarding a joint management of the site.

Next week's discussion in Cairo is also expected to begin dealing with the size of the area around Jericho to be handed over to the Palestinians. According to a senior source in the Israeli delegation, there is doubt whether understandings on this issue can be made next week, which is why Israel will ask that the discussion of the security arrangements in the Gaza Strip be concluded first.

The decision to continue the talks in Cairo was made over the weekend after both sides expressed their satisfaction with the fact that the discussions, held in the absence of the media and in smaller forums, proved much more productive than the Taba talks.

The discussion beginning Monday in Cairo will also be held in smaller working teams of five to six representatives for each side, and will be held in remote locations outside the media's eye. On Wednesday, when the full delegations convene in Taba, they will begin discussing the transfer of civilian powers from the Civil Administration to the Palestinian autonomy authorities—an issue over which there is little disagreement. The Taba forums are also expected to resume the discussion on the size and composition of the Palestinian police, which was not broached in Cairo at all. Brigadier General Yom-Tov Samia, the outgoing commander of the Gaza Strip, will probably join the Israeli delegation leaving for Cairo.

The PLO delegation for the negotiations on the IDF withdrawal from the Gaza Strip has asked Israel to evacuate the settlement of Netzarim in the center of the strip, claiming that this settlement is made of sparsely populated mobile homes, and that its remaining on its current site will cause significant logistic problems in terms of its security.

Last week in Cairo, a first Israeli-Palestinian conference was held on the issue of the permanent arrangement in the territories. It was titled "Two States in the Holy Land." According to senior Palestinian sources, the fact that the conference was attended by coalition whip Eli Dayan and two additional Labor Knesset members—Yosi Katz and Ya'el Dayan—constitutes a Labor Party recognition of the future establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Egypt Helping To Plan Clinton-al-Asad Summit

NC1311063093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 13 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that a three-day Palestinian-Israeli symposium entitled "Two States in One Holy Land" opened in Cairo last night. The paper points

out that the purpose of the symposium, which is financed by a U.S. institute concerned with Middle East peace, is to bring the two sides' views closer.

Diplomatic sources have emphasized that Egyptian-U.S. contacts are under way to arrange a summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton. The summit is expected to be held in December.

Palestinian-Israeli Symposium Agenda Detailed

NC1311124193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli symposium "Two States in One Holy Land" resumed in Cairo this morning. It is organized by the U.S.-based Middle East Studies Center.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, chairman of the Arab Democratic Party and a Knesset member, said that last night's session focused on the situation in the Middle East, particularly the ongoing negotiations between Israel and the PLO. In an interview with MENA, Darawshah said the delegates will discuss the prospects for a future solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on establishing an independent Palestinian state beside the State of Israel. He added that the participants in the symposium propose establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation or a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli confederation. They will also discuss the notion of establishing a Middle East market, he added.

Darawshah stressed that comprehensive peace in the region is near. He noted that progress on the Syrian track and resolving the difficulties that prevent a Syrian-Israeli agreement from being reached will occur in the next few months. He added that he bases his judgment on information from and contacts with Arab parties, his meeting two days ago with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and his meetings with various Israeli figures and senior government officials. Darawshah pointed out that the opinion in Israel is that it is possible to overcome the difficulties with the Palestinian negotiators, reach an agreement with the Jordanian side, and then prepare a better atmosphere within Israeli society to reach an agreement on the Golan and south Lebanon. [passage omitted]

One the desire of the EC, the United States, and Japan to extend aid directly to the occupied territories and not through the PLO-affiliated Palestinian institutions, Darawshah called on these states to change their views, because there is "an official Palestinian government that represents the Palestinian people, that is, the PLO, which held direct negotiations with the Israeli Government and reached an agreement with it to have the two sides recognize each other." [passage omitted]

Palestinians, Israelis Comment on Seminar

NC1411214193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, a member of the Palestinian delegation participating in the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue seminar, which concluded in Cairo today, has admitted that the two parties failed to reach an agreement in their views on a number of issues, primarily the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, Jerusalem, and the settlements. At a news conference at the conclusion of the seminar organized by the U.S.'s Middle East Studies Center headed by Robert Newman under the motto "Two States in One Holy Land," Abu 'Ayyash said that both the Palestinian and Israeli parties agreed to back and safeguard the peace process and that irreversible steps have actually been taken to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He said: We as Palestinians demand an independent Palestinian state on the territories occupied in 1967, which means implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, but the Israelis disagree among themselves over this issue. He noted that the two sides discussed all issues but failed to reach a joint communique, saying: We hope to be able to reach an agreement in the future after achieving positive results in the Taba and Cairo meetings. He said: The important thing regarding this seminar is the serious dialogue we held on the domestic situation and the transitional arrangements. He noted that there are Israelis who support the establishment of a Palestinian state and others who oppose it. He noted that the Palestinians insist that Jerusalem be the capital of the Palestinian state.

Eli Dayan, Israeli Knesset member and chairman of the coalition, noted differences within the Israeli party, as some support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, whereas others believe that it is premature to broach this subject. He said that it was useful to exchange views with the Palestinians who understand that it is unwise at present to talk about issues that can be discussed after the stage of transitional arrangements. He expressed his belief that effort must be made to render the arrangements of the transitional stage successful. He noted the difficult situation facing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's government, which represents a minority coalition of 56 members out of 120 Knesset members. He said that the Palestinian party understands this situation. He pointed out that a meeting between Rabin and (?'Arafat) is considered a success for the agreement. He stressed the important and constructive role Egypt is playing to render the peace process successful. He said that this will enable 'Arafat to come to Jericho in January.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, expressed his conviction that the establishment of a Palestinian state is inevitable, noting that there will be two neighborly Palestinian and Israeli states living in peace. He said that all Palestinian detainees will be released in the next three or four months and that withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza will begin within a month and that the national Palestinian authority will be transferred to the Palestinians in Jericho, which means real movement on the ground.

Dr. Sha'th asserted that considerable progress has been achieved in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations held in Cairo this month, noting that the talks will be resumed on Monday and Tuesday. He said: We discussed the Palestinians' right to full independence and genuine freedom and Israel's right to security and to establish economic cooperation with the Arab countries within the framework of a comprehensive peace in the region. He said: We have indeed begun a peace process and will complete it in the next two or three years.

Responding to a question on president 'Arafat's condemnation of acts of violence in the occupied territories and whether the PLO will call for reciprocal condemnation if acts of violence are inflicted against Palestinians, Dr. Sha'th said he believes that both sides should treat such incidents in the same way. He said that there is no difference between one occupation and another and this binds the Israeli and Palestinian parties to condemn acts of violence by either Palestinians or Israelis. He said: We must work so that the peace negotiations may reach a genuine solution and so that the occupation can end, because it is in itself a form of violence that generates resistance by the Palestinian people. He stressed that in the letters of mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, President 'Arafat committed himself to ending acts of violence, noting that responsibility in the occupied territories is primarily political and not about security. He pointed out that the stabbing of a Jewish settler in the occupied territories by a Fatah member requires interrogation inside the PLO because a member failed to comply with the orders issued by the PLO to cease acts of violence.

Dr. Sha'th said that Israel has a moral obligation to release all the Palestinian detainees. The agreement signed in Oslo did not refer clearly to this matter, but it should have, he added.

The PLO received assurances from Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the Israeli negotiating team that the detainees will be released, Sha'th stated.

Sha'th called on the Israeli Government to release the Palestinian detainees as soon as possible. Israel should not use the knifing of settlers as a pretext for delaying the release of detainees, as any delay could spawn a plethora of arguments on the other side. The Palestinian official pointed that the statement issued by the seminar notes the importance of releasing Palestinian detainees.

For his part, Eli Dayan, member of the Israeli team to the dialogue and representative of the ruling coalition in the Israeli Knesset, said that Israel does not only expect the Palestinians to denounce terror but wants the Fatah movement to control these acts.

Dayan said that we cannot wait for the establishment of the self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho for the PLO to control the acts of violence. We expect the PLO to use its clout to stop such acts because this is very important for peace.

Sha'th commented on this remark by stressing that the Palestinian leadership is irrevocably committed to ending all types of violence in the occupied territories. The Palestinian official said that the Palestinian people want to see genuine peace achieved, one that involves improvement of the economic and security conditions and the release of the detainees.

Dr. Sha'th said that the PLO will not sign the agreement of withdrawal on 3 December [date as received] before Israel makes a written pledge to release the detainees. He pointed out that the matter of the detainees was behind the suspension of the Taba talks two weeks ago. It is important right now to obtain a pledge from Israel that it would release the detainees and withdraw from the Palestinian land.

Eli Dayan commented by saying that the Israeli Government is fully committed to the release of Palestinian detainees. We will give the Palestinian negotiating team this commitment orally and in writing, he added.

The Palestinian-Israeli dialogue symposium concluded its work with a press statement, which was read out by Robert Kelly, representative of the Middle East Studies Center [MESC] in Washington, which sponsored the seminar.

The statement notes that no agreement was reached concerning the idea of establishing two states in one holy land, as proposed by MESC Director John Watbeck [name as received]. However, the three days of meeting have produced a successful debate, the statement says. The statement notes that the participants agreed that a lasting peace cannot be established in the Middle East without finding a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that is based on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and the right of both nations to self-rule.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Economic Body Denounces Libya Sanctions

NC1411192393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Hasan Ibrahim, secretary general of the Arab Economic Unity Council [AEUC] has described the recent resolution by the UN Security Council to tighten economic sanctions on Libya as a threat to the (?Libyan) economy and a flagrant [word indistinct] on human rights.

The AEUC Secretariat today issued a statement saying that the resolution greatly harms joint Arab economic projects and conflicts with the current international tendency to favor a market economy and free trade and encourage the free flow of the factors of production.

The AEUC statement calls on all countries, particularly the Arab and Islamic ones, to exert intensive efforts to

block the implementation of this resolution. The statement calls for the problem to be resolved through peaceful negotiations and within the framework of international legitimacy.

The statement says that the UN Security Council resolution is in conflict with the norms of international law and conventions and the commitment to resolving disputes through peaceful means. The statement notes that Libya offered to resolve the crisis within this framework (?in order to clarify) the desired truth.

The statement says that the UN Security Council resolution escalates the situation, heightens the tension, and places a major obstacle before the efforts exerted by Libya and other Arab countries to resolve the crisis peacefully.

The AEUC has in the past warned of the dangers inherent in the UN Security Council resolution imposing the aerial blockade on Libya, the statement says. The statement adds that there are similar dangers involved in the freezing of Libyan assets abroad, the ban on exports of oil industry equipment to Libya, and the boycott of Libyan airline companies.

Arab Bar Association Urges Solidarity With Libya

NC1411170293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1518 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—The Arab Bar Association Secretariat General has expressed its deep concern over the UN Security Council resolution tightening sanctions against Libya and over the escalation of the crisis between Libya on the one hand and the United States and its Western allies on the other.

In a statement issued today, the Association appealed to all Arab, international, legal, and humanitarian organizations to express their solidarity with the Libyan people and to denounce this resolution. It also stressed that the two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie affair are entitled to a fair and just trial. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Black 13 September Organization Claims Settler's Murder

JN1411160493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] In southern Lebanon, the Palestinian Black 13 September Battalions Organization [munazzamat kata'ib al-thalith-'shar min aylul al-aswad al-filistiniyah] has claimed responsibility for the assassination of Israeli settler Hayim Mizrahi in the occupied Palestinian territory on 29 October.

Munir Maqdah, former official in charge of the Fatah organization in Lebanon, who was dismissed from this post in late October, had earlier announced the formation of this organization to foil the Gaza-Jericho plan.

In its statement today, the abovementioned organization pledged to the martyrs of the Palestinian revolution that it will continue the armed struggle until the Israeli enemy has been removed. It said it will continue its support for the intifadah and undermine the self-rule plan and its exponents, as the statement put it.

WAFA Cited on 'Arafat Condemnation of Killing

NC1411094093 Paris AFP in English 0138 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, Nov 14 (AFP)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin late Saturday [13 November] called for continued autonomy talks with the Palestinians following PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's unprecedented condemnation of the murder of an Israeli settler.

"After the publication by the head of the PLO of a communique condemning this attack we must continue negotiations to implement the autonomy accord" for the occupied territories, Rabin said in Washington, where he is on an official visit.

His remarks came as Israeli and Palestinian sources in Cairo said an eight-member Israeli-PLO working group would resume discussions Monday in the Egyptian capital.

Both Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton had demanded an official denunciation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation of the October 29 murder on the West Bank of Hayim Mizrahi allegedly by five members of 'Arafat's Fatah wing of the PLO.

U.S. and Israeli officials insisted that condemnation of Mizrahi's killing was required under terms of the historic September 13 PLO-Israeli accord granting covering autonomy to Palestinians currently under Israeli occupation on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a statement carried by the official Palestinian news agency WAFA, 'Arafat said Saturday: "We vehemently condemn the murder of Israeli settler Hayim Mizrahi."

He stressed that the kidnapping and stabbing of Mizrahi had been carried out without the knowledge of PLO leadership, which he said would investigate the assault and take "necessary measures."

'Arafat also demanded that all Palestinians "respect the agreement to halt violence in order to safeguard the peace process." [passage omitted]

Rabin warned that "the goal of the Palestinian terrorists opposed to the peace process is to provoke an end to the negotiations."

"The real test for Yasir 'Arafat will be a halt to violence and terrorism by Palestinians loyal to him."

An Israeli military spokesman said the five Fatah militants were caught near the West Bank town of Ramallah "several days ago" and were suspected of Mizrahi's murder.

The incident sparked a wave of demonstrations and violence by Jewish settlers.

No Fatah members had been accused of killing an Israeli since the signing of the autonomy accord in Washington September 13.

Four days before the signing, 'Arafat wrote in a letter to Rabin: "The PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations and discipline violators."

In a related development Palestinian sources in Cairo, along with Israel's Ambassador to Egypt David Sultan, reported that an eight-member Israeli-Palestinian committee would meet there on Monday.

The same working group, which met in Cairo on Monday and Tuesday of last week, will try to iron out differences on Israel's planned military withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, where Palestinian self-rule will initially be implemented.

The disagreements prompted the suspension 10 days ago of formal Israeli-PLO negotiations in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

Resumption of the Taba talks, according to Palestinian sources, will depend on the outcome of the committee discussions in Cairo. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Reportedly Phones in Orders To Cease Violence

TA121113Z093 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Reliable Palestinian sources in Tunis contacted by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem a short while ago told him that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat became very irritated after receiving the reports on the detention of the Fatah squad members. 'Arafat expressed his anger and indignation over the fact that the members of this squad did not adhere to his orders. Those sources added that 'Arafat today held telephone contacts with Fatah leaders in the territories and ordered them to adhere to his orders on ceasing all acts of violence against the Israel Defense Forces and Israeli settlers.

Fatah Leader Reaffirms Order

TA121104Z93 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 11 Network in Hebrew 1930 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] In the wake of the uncovering of the Fatah squad, Hussayn al-Shaykh, the leader of Fatah in the West Bank, this evening told our correspondent Naftali Ben-Simon that Yasir 'Arafat ordered his men to stop all the acts of violence in the territories and that the PLO remains committed to the peace process.

[Begin recording] [Al-Shaykh] I was surprised and really shocked yesterday when I heard about the Fatah squad. Once again, I would like to affirm that we issued instructions to all our men to stop all the acts of violence. We also received official instructions from Yasir 'Arafat to stop all the acts of violence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We signed an agreement of principles with the Israelis, we respect the signature of our leadership, and we will realize this agreement in the field.

[Ben-Simon] The settlers claim that you knew about this squad's involvement, and that is why you asked for the release of its members.

[Al-Shaykh] No, that is not true. We initially requested their release because we did not know why they were arrested. I personally approached the authorities and asked them to tell me why these people had been arrested. They told me that the matter was of utmost sensitivity at that point, and that they could not give me any information about it. As I told you, we were surprised. [end recording]

Al-Husayni Denounces Fatah 'Terrorist' Squad Attack

TA121117Z093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, one of the PLO leading members in the territories, has denounced the Fatah terrorist squad which murdered Bet El settler Hayim Mizrahi. Speaking to journalists, he said the five had violated the PLO's orders and that the PLO would take measures against anybody who violates these orders.

Opposition Assails 'Arafat Condemnation of Killing

Hamas: Condemnation a 'Shameful Submission'

LD141113Z093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement denouncing PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's condemnation of the killing of an Israeli settler in an operation by the Fatah Movement. Hamas described this condemnation as a shameful submission to the United States and Israel, and a clear indication that the main task of what it described as the misguided and defeatist group under shaky self-rule is represented by suppressing the mujahidin and imprisoning, exiling, and killing them in defense of the Zionist ally and as a submission to its command.

The spokesman for the Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, himself a Hamas official, described 'Arafat's condemnation of the killing as a shock to everyone with only a vestige of dignity, as he put it. He said this condemnation came on the instructions of the United States and Israel.

DFLP, PFLP Urge Continuation of Intifadah

JN1311174993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Sana'al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] An official spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] told Radio Monte Carlo today that 'Arafat has carried out the promise he made to the Israeli prime minister in the 9 September letters and condemned the operation carried out by the Fatah youths against the Israeli occupation, while Israel still detains more than 13,000 prisoners of both sexes, and continues to demolish houses, and storm villages and camps. The spokesman said the real content of the Oslo-Washington agreement shows that one party, the weak party, has made concessions to the other party, which has offered nothing in return.

The two fronts called on the intifadah youths to continue the resistance until Israel withdraws from the occupied Palestinian territories in accordance with internationally legitimate resolutions.

PFLP-GC Says 'Arafat 'Tool' in Hand of Enemy

JN1411193193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] 'Arafat's response to Zionist demands, his condemnation of our people's national struggle, and his call to end the revolution's intifadah have drawn angry reactions and denunciation from our Palestinian national arena.

A responsible source at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has made the following statement: While the sons of our Palestinian people are being exposed to mass killings by the Zionist settlers and the occupation soldiers, while the Zionist enemy is committing the ugliest crimes against our masses in Lebanon and Palestine by shelling and destroying houses on top of peaceful people, Yasir 'Arafat is declaring his condemnation of acts of resistance, denouncing our people's jihad and their legitimate right to self-defense, and abandoning strugglers, whom he considers terrorists and highwaymen, in harmony with his commitments and the obligations that he signed in the letters of recognition he exchanged with terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin.

By this, 'Arafat proves in practice that he has become a tool in the hand of the Zionist enemy and an ally helping the enemy oppress our people and confiscate their rights.

The statement by the responsible source at the PFLP-GC also says: In the PFLP-GC, out of our responsibility for and commitment to the goals of our people and our nation, we believe that the role 'Arafat is playing is so dangerous to our people's feelings and goals that it is necessary for the masses inside and outside Palestine to take every step and use every other means of expression to put an end to the policy of encroachment on our people by 'Arafat and what he represents.

Concluding its statement, The PFLP-GC said: As we greet all strugglers everywhere, we are confident that the people of the revolution and the intifadah do not lack ways of expressing their positions and continuing the revolution until man and land are liberated.

An official spokesman for the Palestine National Liberation Movement [PNLM] said: It is not strange for the one who has sold Palestine, betrayed the national cause, conspired against the revolution and struggle, and bargained over the brave popular intifadah, to carry out the order of his masters in Washington and Tel Aviv to denounce the operation that claimed the life of one of the Zionist settlers, and to demand the end of operations against the Zionist enemy. The spokesman added: While we condemn these positions and their supporters, we assert that our people's active forces and strugglers will continue to struggle relentlessly by relying on the will of their people and their nation, which every day expresses their rejection of the treasonous 'Arafat-Rabin agreement and which asserts that they cannot be prevented by the clique's conspiracy from struggling to topple the treasonous agreement and continuing armed struggle until Palestine is liberated.

A responsible source at the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has made the following statement: 'Arafat's disgraceful surrender to the American-Zionist demand for condemning the heroic operation proves that the defeatist clique is serving plans to liquidate the cause of our people and nation in favor of the Zionist and Western hegemony over the region. The source added: The Islamic resistance Movement, Hamas, holds the defeatist clique that is penetrated by the Mosad fully responsible for any harm done to our people's strugglers and fighters by the arrogant enemy and warns against serving the enemy's goals and its plans to annihilate our people and liquidate their spirit of resistance. It stresses that our people will not tolerate those who have agreed to serve the Zionist hangman.

'Arafat, Rabin Reportedly To Meet at End of Nov

NC1411142493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] A high-level Palestinian source has disclosed that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will hold a summit meeting in Cairo end of this month to overcome the obstacles standing in the way of the Taba talks.

The source added that the biggest obstacle is control of the crossing points on Palestinian roads. The Palestinian side insists it must control these crossing points in conjunction with multi-national observers. He added that during his visits and contacts, 'Arafat secured French and U.S. approval to send, at those two countries' expense, approximately 800 observers to supervise the overland, sea, and air terminals.

Executive Committee Holds Meeting in Tunis 12 Nov

'Arafat Chairs Meeting

LD1211165493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Today in Tunis, the PLO Executive Committee began a meeting under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting will be followed this evening by a session of the Revolutionary Council of Fatah Movement, which will be devoted to the problems related to the implementation of the limited Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

The meeting of the Fatah Movement council—the most important body within the Palestinian Liberation Organization—is the first of its kind since the signing of the self-rule agreement with Israel on 13 September.

Progress of Negotiations Examined

LD1311150993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The meeting of Fatah, the revolutionary council of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, which began last night under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat continued today in Tunis.

According to a Palestinian source, the meetings are examining the progress of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to implement the peace agreement signed in Washington on 13 September.

The meetings will also study plans aiming at establishing Palestinian authority in both Gaza and Jericho.

Discussions Resume on Autonomy Plan

NC1311152993 Paris AFP in English 1430 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, Nov 13 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation leadership resumed a debate Saturday [13 November] on problems in implementing the accord on limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories.

A meeting of the PLO executive committee, chaired by Yasir 'Arafat, was due to be followed by a meeting of 'Arafat's Fatah Revolutionary Council, which held a long session Friday night, according to an informed Palestinian source.

The Israeli-PLO talks have stalled over the scope of the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, which must be completed by April 13 next year, according to the Declaration of Principles signed by Israel and the PLO on September 13.

On Friday 'Arafat summed up the results of his recent visits to Paris, Brussels and Lisbon, noting that the European Community had pledged "political and financial" support for the implementation of the accord on limited Palestinian autonomy starting in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Discussions Saturday were expected to focus on the Israeli-PLO negotiations due to resume in Egypt Monday, and the composition of the 19-member Palestinian national authority, or interim government.

Palestinian sources said 'Arafat would head the new body, with Fatah members making up nearly half of it.

The meeting of the 100-member Revolutionary Council of Fatah, the main PLO faction, is the first since the signing of the Israeli-PLO accord in Washington.

'Record-Setting Meetings' End 14 Nov

NC1411223693 Paris AFP in English 1953 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, Nov 14 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat on Sunday [14 November] finalized the make-up of a Palestinian authority in the Israeli- occupied territories during record-setting meetings of his movement's leadership, Palestinian sources said.

'Arafat prompted the meetings that ended Sunday of the Palestine Liberation Organization's executive committee and the revolutionary council of his mainstream Fatah faction to prepare for the transfer of power from Israel to the Palestinians.

He aims to meet the December 13 deadline set by the accord Israel and the PLO signed in September for limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

No official statement was issued after the meetings but the Palestinian news agency WAFA said the Fatah revolutionary council formally approved the autonomy accord and adopted a series of measures aimed at implementing the agreement in line with the interests of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat completed consultations with most of the PLO's and Fatah's top bodies in the meetings, marked by heated debates, on the problems of implementation.

Since the end of September, he has convened the Fatah central committee, the PLO's executive committee and the Palestinian central council. All approved the accord despite strong internal opposition.

But the Palestine National Council, or parliament-in-exile, has not been convened and will not likely be called to session in the coming months, despite pressing calls from organizations opposed to the autonomy accord.

The dissidents include the Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, which continue to boycott the PLO's executive committee, to protest against 'Arafat's "personal power" and to call for "democratization" of the Palestinian leadership.

On Sunday, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi returned to the occupied territories and renewed calls for wider democracy within the PLO.

"This is a new phase which requires structures and work procedures that are democratic and places the appropriate people with the right qualifications in the right positions," she told AFP.

The comments came amid controversy over Arafat's appointment of the Palestine Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction following the autonomy deal with Israel.

Several economists on the council, also chaired by 'Arafat, complained the PLO's "interim authority in complete charge of all aid programs" was stacked with politicians and too few competent technicians.

'Ashrawi was one of three senior Palestinian peace negotiators who offered to resign in August in a storm over how the Middle East talks should be conducted and calls for 'Arafat's powers to be trimmed.

Other complaints focused on the makeup of the interim Palestinian authority to be headed by 'Arafat and whose members have not been officially named.

The Fatah leadership also discussed security problems, following allegations that a high-ranking PLO official, 'Adnan Yasin, spied for Israel. He has been detained since October.

Several participants asked for details on the ongoing investigation of the matter which continues to dominate conversations among Palestinians in Tunis.

Palestinian sources said 'Arafat insisted on defending his policies while admitting that the accord with Israel did have shortcomings.

'Arafat Chairs Fatah Revolutionary Council Meeting

Meeting To Focus on Future Moves

NC1211211293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1917 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 12 Nov (MENA)—A Fatah Revolutionary Council meeting began here this evening. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and about 100 of the Fatah Revolutionary Council's approximately 105 members attended to discuss the latest developments in the peace process in the Middle East and the prospects for the new stage of Palestinian action after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles Agreement in Washington on 13 September. Informed Palestinian sources said that this meeting is considered to be one of the most important by the Fatah Revolutionary Council, "Fatah Parliament" because it is the first since the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the mutual recognition agreement between Israel and the PLO. These sources said that this meeting, which will continue for three days, will discuss several issues that concern Fatah's future, primarily drawing up a clear and specific program for its actions and moves in the next stage in light of the new realities imposed by the signing of the agreement on principles and its repercussions on Fatah's activities inside and outside the occupied territories.

These sources said that during the Fatah Revolutionary Council meetings, the conferees will discuss other issues, such as the formation of the national authority of Palestinian self-rule, for which 'Arafat was elected president by the PLO Central Council, and the formation of the Palestinian economic council for development and reconstruction, which was announced a week ago by a decision of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. These sources noted that among the issues on the agenda of the Fatah Revolutionary Council is the issue of security for the Palestinian revolution, both inside and outside the occupied territories following the assassinations in the occupied territories. These assassinations left three senior Fatah leaders, the latest of whom was As'ad al-Saftawi, dead in the occupied territories. It will also discuss the issue of uncovering spy 'Adnan Yasin, who spied for the Mosad. This issue caused considerable confusion about security, which prompted numerous Fatah cadres to call for the reconsideration of the security plan drafted to protect the revolution's security.

These sources noted that Fatah Revolutionary Council members will hear a lengthy report by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the outcome of his visits to France and Brussels. They will also discuss Fatah's relations with the other Palestinian groups both within the PLO framework and outside of it, to reach a common denominator to strengthen national Palestinian unity. The Fatah Central Committee held a meeting earlier today to prepare for this meeting.

Meanwhile, the PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, reported that President 'Arafat chaired a PLO Executive Committee meeting this morning following his return from Lisbon. During the meeting, the PLO Executive Committee members discussed the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly the peace process and the ongoing negotiations to implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles Agreement and the obstacles Israel raises for it. They also discussed the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and the urgent need for reconstruction there.

Council Meeting Concludes 13 Nov

LD1411134793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council last night ended its meeting in Tunis, after having discussed all the issues relating to the implementation of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Palestinian sources said that a committee has been set up to draft the final communique of this session, which coincided with the meeting held by the PLO Executive Committee

under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, and which was devoted to discussion of the same issues.

Palestinian-Israeli Agreement Endorsed

LD1411181493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] At the end of its proceedings in Tunis this morning, the Fatah Revolutionary Council endorsed the decision made by the movement's central committee on approving the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the Declaration of Principles signed on 13 September.

The council also endorsed the Fatah Central Committee's report, which included a full briefing on the political moves and decisions and the measures taken by the central committee that led to the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

During its meetings, the council also made a host of decisions pertaining to the measures that need to be taken in the next phase to implement the agreement in a way that would secure the interests of the Palestinian people on all fronts and lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

'Text' of Decision on Agreement

LD1411185493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council ended its 11th round of meetings late last night. The Revolutionary Council approved the decision of the Central Committee to sanction the agreement on the statement of principles signed on 13 September between the PLO and the Israeli Government.

The text of the council's decision follows: The Revolutionary Council approved the report of the central committee, which included a comprehensive explanation of the political moves and decisions and the steps taken by the central committee that led to the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington on 13 September 1993. The Revolutionary Council made a number of decisions related to the procedures that need to be carried out in the next stage to implement the agreement faithfully so as to guarantee all aspects of the Palestinians' interests in order to achieve the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The Revolutionary Council issued another decision to set up committees of national action to undertake the implementation of urgent national tasks within the framework of building the Palestinian national authority. These committees are to begin work immediately.

The Revolutionary Council will issue a comprehensive political statement at a later date.

'Arafat Orders Security Officials' Passports Seized

NC1211212793 Paris AFP in English 1917 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, Nov 12 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has seized the passports of at least four PLO security officials and ordered an inquiry into the arrest of a Palestinian accused of spying for Israel, Palestinian officials said here Friday [12 November].

Mahmud Sadiq, who was in charge of 'Arafat's radio communications, was arrested in late October and detained for six days at the PLO's Hammam al-Shatt prison near Tunis. He was later secretly transferred to Algeria, the sources said.

His arrest came a day after that of 'Adnan Hasan Yasin, the number two at the PLO mission in Tunis, who was also accused of spying for the Israeli intelligence service Mosad.

The sources said Sadiq was the victim of a plot to cover@up an affair involving his estranged Hungarian wife Maria and four PLO security officials.

The four men who allegedly plotted against Sadiq had their passports confiscated on Wednesday.

PLO officials interviewed by AFP denied that Sadiq faced espionage charges, but did not explain why he was arrested.

Sadiq has protested his innocence and accused his wife of framing him for personal reasons.

Speaking to the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Algiers, Sadiq said that before their separation he told PLO officials his wife had been acting suspiciously and regularly hosting people at their home in Tunis.

The woman then allegedly accused her husband of spying for the Israeli intelligence service Mosad to get herself off the hook.

A Palestinian security official was involved in the frame-up, Sadiq said, without giving a name.

Sadiq said he was freed from jail in Tunis after six days, when his brother Riyad, an officer in Palestinian military security, persuaded the Palestine Liberation Organisation to let him go on condition he move to Algiers.

Background to Alleged Mosad Spy in Tunis Viewed

NC1311105393 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 12 Nov 93 pp 24-25

[Report by Majdi al-Daqqaq: "The Whole Story of the Capture of the Mosad Agent Inside PLO Headquarters in Tunis"]

[Excerpts] According to the diplomatic list in Tunis, 'Adnan Ahmad Yasin is ranked second after Palestinian Ambassador Hakam Bal'awi in the Palestinian diplomatic mission there.

Yasin was born in 1946 in the al-Safirin area of Palestine. He carries a Jordanian passport and completed his education in Amman, Jordan. He joined the PLO's office in Tunis in 1971.

Yasin was regarded in the PLO as the best person to accomplish all the administrative services required in the work of the Palestinian Embassy and the PLO. He thus enjoyed the trust of all the Palestinian leaders and could enter their offices and meet them at any time without an appointment.

'Adnan Yasin's story began when his wife became sick and doctors in Tunis discovered she was suffering from abdominal cancer. This prompted Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to approve her treatment in Paris at the PLO's expense to show he appreciated his difficult financial situation and his services to the PLO.

Yasin paid several visits to Paris from 1991 after doctors advised him to go there to continue his wife's treatment once every two months. During this time, two people befriended him, one claimed he was Egyptian and the other Lebanese. They told him they were businessmen working in Amsterdam. [passage omitted]

According to his initial confession, Yasin said the two at first asked him for general economic information about the PLO. They did not ask him for any security information about the organization or its leaders. This reassured Yasin. He said the two never mentioned the name Mosad in their conversations with him and they convinced him they wanted to undertake investments and projects in Tunisia and later in the occupied Palestinian territory. Yasin revealed how the two asked him for the first report on the PLO's economic and financial situation and promised him large financial reward and a job in their companies for his eldest son Hani. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources in Tunis say things developed gradually between the Mosad agents and Yasin, who stopped sending information for a while. The two telephoned him from France and urged him to send what they asked him to send. They asked to see him as soon as possible.

Yasin, who has been considered a recruit of the Israeli intelligence service for two years now, left for Paris, where he met the two. The three agreed to place listening and transmitting devices in the offices of the PLO leaders. This was before the Madrid peace conference began.

Yasin returned from Paris with a table lamp and a chair and placed them in the office of Abu-Mazin, political adviser of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who was outside Tunis at that time. Abu-Mazin had complained of a pain in his back because of the chair he sat on and Yasin told him he would bring him a comfortable chair and a new desk lamp.

The investigation conducted by the PLO revealed modern and very sensitive listening and transmitting devices inside the lamp and chair. This took place while Abu-Mazin was in Washington to attend the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the head of the PLO's Information Department, has said that the Mosad spy was exposed on the basis of reliable information that someone was spying against the PLO. 'Abd-Rabbuh refused to reveal the nature of the information or where it came from.

When the Tunisian interior minister was asked about the 'Adnan Yasin affair, he declined to answer, saying only: "This is a Palestinian affair. Tunisia has nothing to do with it."

But reports confirm that Tunisia helped the Palestinian leadership to arrest and question him and then turned him over to the PLO. But it is not certain whether a third country—said to be France—helped to expose the Mosad agent. [passage omitted]

'Adnan Yasin is still being questioned by a Palestinian committee established for the purpose and he remains in Tunis after the Tunisians completed their investigation and handed him over to the PLO. I can confirm that Yasin has not left Tunisia for any Arab country, as was reported. [passage omitted]

According to responsible Palestinian sources in Tunis, Yasin has made a full confession over his dealings with these two people, but he did not name the Mosad in his confession, saying that the two people he dealt with did not mention the name at all. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Urges More Democracy Within PLO

NC1411190193 Paris AFP in English 1812 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 14 (AFP)—Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi returned to the occupied territories on Sunday [14 November] and renewed calls for wider democracy within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

"This is a new phase which requires structures and work procedures that are democratic and places the appropriate people with the right qualifications in the right positions," 'Ashrawi told AFP.

"This has to be done by the institution itself internally and the PLO is doing this.

"There are serious people within the PLO who are working towards these ends," she said on returning from Washington where she is expected to become the head of the PLO's U.S. bureau.

The comments came amid controversy over chairman Yasir 'Arafat's appointment of the Palestine Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction following the September 13 autonomy agreement with Israel.

Several economists on the council complained that the PLO's "interim authority in complete charge of all aid programmes" was stuffed with politicians and too few competent technicians. 'Arafat is council president, his deputy Faruq Qaddumi the vice president.

The Palestinian press also reported last week that the U.S. State Department had told 'Arafat the council had to be credible, highly capable and accountable if it was to receive aid. Two billion dollars has been pledged over five years.

The World Bank also complained of "political" delays.

At the same time a petition was circulating in Jordan and on the West Bank at the weekend criticising 'Arafat's alleged autocratic behaviour and urging more democracy.

'Ashrawi said her views were not linked to the petition.

"I don't think there is anything to be gained by pointing fingers and naming names. These things have to be done internally and constructively and not through the media," she stressed.

'Ashrawi was one of three senior Palestinian peace negotiators who offered to resign in August in a storm over how the Middle East talks should be conducted and calls for 'Arafat's powers to be trimmed.

'Ashrawi on EC Aid Plans, Taba Talks Status

JN1311195593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has said she had noted the European Community's understanding of the need to give grants and financial aid to the occupied Arab territories to establish infrastructure and launch joint investment and economic ventures with the Palestinian side.

Hanan 'Ashrawi's remarks came in an interview with our correspondent for political affairs upon her arrival in Amman.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] There is a great willingness to contribute in an effective, direct manner to the creation of the Palestinian economy and to an integrated economic assistance program. There are some technical issues which need to be crystallized and developed. They want specific issues related to the Palestinian Council for Development and Construction and also related to the method of operation of this council. They also want specific projects within the Palestinian integrated program for development, in order to contribute to it.

There are two kinds: The first is within the group of the donor countries, in accordance with the Washington conference. There is also a willingness to deal bilaterally as a European Community and individual states to make a direct contribution.

[Correspondent] But how do you evaluate the European Community's readiness to help the occupied Arab territories?

['Ashrawi] In fact, they are very much willing to do so. There is a clear understanding of the need for economic development and the need to draw up an integrated economic program to embody the agreement and to give the Palestinian economy a real push forward. This is within certain projects and an integral perspective. The willingness is there, as I have said, in the form of aid or general economic cooperation, either through the donor countries or the World Bank, or through direct contacts. Businessmen and financiers are also willing to contribute, in the form of joint investments in the occupied territories between Palestinian institutions and European financiers.

[Correspondent] Dr. 'Ashrawi, regarding the Taba negotiations, after they covered some issues, the talks slowed down, and then resumed again. How do you view these talks, and will they achieve concrete results shortly?

['Ashrawi] No doubt, they are very difficult talks. It is clear that the Israeli side started off with a hardline position demanding the maximum limit. However, after the intensive talks in Cairo and the mini-talks about withdrawal and other issues, there was a change in the Israeli position. The mini-talks will resume soon. [end recording]

Sha'th Demands Commitment on Full Prisoner Release

TA1411173493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Here is a report just in from Cairo: Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has just made an interesting statement. He said that if Israel does not promise in writing to release all the political Palestinian prisoners within four months, the PLO will not sign the agreement on the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. Another report from Cairo says the Egyptian foreign minister told Knesset Member [MK] Eli Dayan, the chairman of the coalition, that another summit meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will be held soon. Our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck reports from Cairo.

[Begin recording] [Beck] Nabil Sha'th was speaking at a joint news conference with coalition chairman Eli Dayan to mark the closing of a Palestinian-Israeli convention, the first of its kind, which was devoted to theoretical and academic discussions on the permanent solution in the territories. Nabil Sha'th and Eli Dayan, were asked to comment on less theoretical issues, however, pertaining to the near future and primarily to the negotiations on the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho which resume tomorrow. In this regard, Nabil Sha'th

expressed hope and optimism that the timetable can indeed be met and that an agreement will be signed within a month. He said that progress was made last week and that he hopes for more progress this week. Sha'th also noted that both parties had begun discussions on the withdrawal from Jericho; however, no progress was made on this specific issue. When Nabil Sha'th spoke of the possibility of reaching an agreement within a month, he stressed that the Palestinians will not sign it unless Israel signs an explicit commitment this time to release all Palestinian political prisoners within four months. Nabil Sha'th expressed the assessment that it had been a mistake not to include the release of political prisoners in the Oslo agreement. Sha'th vowed that he will not sign an agreement unless Israel fully and explicitly agrees to release the prisoners within four months.

Another issue discussed was, of course, the recent terrorist attacks and acts of violence. Sha'th reiterated yesterday's condemnation by 'Arafat and said he does not think the Israelis expect the PLO to adopt security measures right now.

[Sha'th, in English] I do not think that the Israelis expect us to make any security arrangements while their occupation continues. That would be utterly impossible to have any direct security responsibilities. This means our being armed and being in the streets. I mean, this is a totally different issue.

[Beck translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Our responsibility right now is primarily moral and political, Sha'th explained. If we were handed responsibility for security, things would change, Sha'th said. Nonetheless, he issued a serious warning regarding various agitators who would seek to turn the PLO into a brutal police force in the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

DFLP Claims Responsibility for Balatah Attack

JN1311183593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 13 Nov (SANA)—The Red Star Forces of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine have claimed responsibility for the attack against the Israeli occupation forces in Balatah Camp.

In a statement distributed by the front here today, these forces emphasized that its strikes against Israel will continue under the intifadah banner.

The statement said no one can deter the intifadah and stop the struggle of our people.

PFLP Claims Attack on Jewish Settler in Hebron

NC1511113093 Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Beirut, Nov 15 (AFP)—A PLO faction opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks claimed responsibility for Monday's [15 November] attack on a Jewish settler in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron, a telephone caller told AFP here.

Two members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) used an axe to attack the settler who opened fire and killed one of his assailants, Muhammad Badawi Yarakan, said the caller identifying himself as a PFLP member.

The militants of the hardline faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization seriously wounded the settler and seized his gun, he said, reading from a statement.

The PFLP said the Israeli armed forces slapped a curfew on Hebron after the incident while a number of settlers set fire to the vegetable market in the city and attacked Palestinian cars.

Radio Views Israeli Settlers' Attacks on Palestinians

JN1211131193 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary: "A Rift Between Security and Settlement Activity"]

[Text] In the wake of the fourth round of Taba negotiations early this month, herds of settlers were unleashed and wreaked havoc and terrorism in the cities of Ramallah, al-Birah, and Bir Zayt [words indistinct] and damaged property in the aforementioned areas. This was in response to the killing of a resident of Bet El settlement near Baytin village northeast of al-Birah. This is not the first time that settlers or a settlement group launches acts of sabotage against nearby Palestinian villages and cities. However, recent incidents in Ramallah district raise many urgent questions about the issue of security inside the occupied territories in light of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement— which is the most significant issue in the special bilateral negotiations in Taba. Perhaps through their acts of sabotage, the settlers wanted to address a message with specific signals to the negotiators on the Gulf of Aqaba coast.

It was clear that the third round of negotiations was slow because of the Israeli stand. Moreover, Rabin's government broke some of its promises, especially in relation to the release of Palestinian detainees. This, in some aspect, seemed to be a response to pressure by the Israeli right wing, which opposes the agreement, and an effort to abort this agreement. This is so despite the fact that existing facts and figures clearly indicate that the most significant cause of such behavior lies in the Israeli Governemnt's attempt to play a tactical negotiating game even regarding issues that are supposed to be purely procedural. The herds of settlers would not have been able to launch large-scale acts of sabotage if the Israeli Army had not connived with them. Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks in Washington, clearly referred to this fact.

Consequently, the occupation army bears a dual responsibility toward the aforementioned acts of sabotage—the responsibility of protecting the Palestinian citizens so long as the Palestinian police force and national guards have not been formed. Hence, the occupation army's field leadership bears the responsibility of collaborating with the settlers. The truth of the assumption about the army's collaboration is not reinforced by events on the ground alone but by some Israeli media reports about a document distributed before these acts of sabotage. This document was distributed by the moral guidance branch in the army command to occupation army units in which it expected confrontations and clashes to break out between the army and various groups of settlers as a result of implementing the provisions of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. In other words, the commanders of these units should be fully alert for such acts.

From this premise, it can be said that giving the settlers the chance and enough time to carry out their acts of sabotage is a decision from upper levels in an attempt to address a message to the Palestinian citizens about what the reaction will be in the event that settlers are subjected to any harm. Moreover, it is a ridiculous attempt to create a negative popular reaction against the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, as a continuation of an old Israeli logic. The most significant expressions of this logic are found in southern Lebanon, the latest of which is the large-scale air bombardment of the villages of this area a few months ago where there are Hizballah bases. The events proved the futility of this logic. Indeed, military commanders and political officials made public statements about the need to find a political solution to this problem. The collaboration of the army is useless and does not teach lessons. What is required is a political solution in terms of expediting the work of the Taba committee and refraining from placing obstacles in front of means to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Hence, expediting the withdrawal of the occupation army reduces the possiblities of confrontation. Moreover, facilitating the formation and deployment of the Palestinian police force requires the formation of a coordination committee to maintain security, especially the security of Palestinian citizens. Such acts of sabotage are additional obstacles to means of implementing the related provisions of the declaration of principles. In the meantime, what is required are steps to build confidence, especially releasing our detainees regardless of their intellectual or organizational affiliation.

Hence, excluding Hamas detainees from the batch of released detainees creates bitterness and reactions that will reinforce all inner motives to act against the occupation forces and Israelis. These are legal and legitimate motives, even if some of the manifestations of these motives cannot be accepted. The burning of a corpse contradicts our values even though the occupation army and the herds of settlers did worse. Indeed, our Islam does not permit us to kill a detainee.

If the Israeli recklessness which took the form of the army's collaboration with the settlers has its negative reflections among the Israelis and provides additional opportunities to those who oppose the agreement with the PLO, it, in return, expedites the discussion of issues, the time for which perhaps has not come yet. Such issues include the entire issue of settlement activity proceeding from the incessant Palestinian need to provide security for our people and the difficulty of achieving this in light of shortcomings by the occupation army and endeavors by the herds of settlers to take matters into their own hands.

'Hardline' Groups Denounce Libya Sanctions Decision

NC1411173293 Paris AFP in English 1336 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, Nov 14 (AFP)—Ten hardline Palestinian groups have denounced the U.N. Security Council's decision to tighten sanctions on Libya.

In a joint statement issued here the groups, all of which have rejected the PLO-Israeli accord on limited autonomy for the Palestinians, said Saturday [13 November] the U.N. decision was part of a "plot hatched by the West to undermine the will of the Arab nation."

"The U.N. Security Council has become a puppet in the hands of the United States," the statement added.

The signatories included the Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP and PFLP), which are part of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS.

Meanwhile, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) led by Ahmad Jibril, called on Arab states to "take steps to express their rejection and condemnation of U.S. policy."

U.N. Security Council Resolution 883 adopted Thursday cut off equipment used in the oil industry and froze Libyan financial assets abroad. The sanctions, due to take effect on December 1, came on top of an international air and arms embargo imposed on Libya since April 1992.

The sanctions are aimed at forcing Tripoli to hand over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland, which cost 270 lives, and cooperate with the French authorities investigating the bombing of a UTA airliner over Niger in 1989.

In Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] expressed "solidarity with the Libyan people," in a statement issued Saturday.

OIC Secretary-General Hamid al-Ghabid said the imposition of sanctions against Libya was "all the less defensible since the Libyan government said it was ready to work to resolve this crisis by peaceful means."

Algeria

Police Arrest 200 in Raid on FIS

LD1311223993 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2130 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The Algerian police are keeping a watch on Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] fundamentalist activists. Two hundred people were arrested early this morning in a raid carried out by police forces in the district of Belcourt, in the suburbs of Algiers. This operation took place only a fortnight after extensive searches by the police in the eastern part of the capital, mostly after the release of the three French civil servants [on 31 October]. [passage omitted].

Four 'Terrorists' Killed, 28 Arrested

LD1411204193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Security authorities have reported that a gendarme in Constantine and the chairman of the executive delegation [municipal official appointed by the government] of Zoubiria municipality in Medea have been murdered.

The same source added that three citizens were murdered by terrorists in Batna, Jijel, and Chlef.

In another development, security authorities said that four terrorists had been killed and a quantity of weapons recovered by security forces in Jijel on 11 November. The same source confirmed that security forces have arrested 28 terrorists in Saida, Tiaret, and El Oued.

Three People Linked to FIS Arrested in France

LD1311233493 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Following up on the raid carried out by Algerian Islamists in France: Three persons close to the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] were arrested last night. They have been charged with criminal conspiracy linked to a terrorist organization, and two of these people have been placed under arrest.

As for the chairman of FAF, the Algerian Fraternity in France, which is somewhat considered to be the shop window of the FIS in France, he has been placed under house arrest in Foix. Our special correspondents Michele Fines and Raymond Chapelard report:

[Fines] The valleys of Ariege remind him of his country. Djaffar El Houari has not been back to Algeria for five years. Yesterday, he was being held in custody in Paris for the fourth consecutive day. Today, he has board and lodging and his laundry done by the Interior Ministry; he is under house arrest. Although he has the right to meet whoever he likes, he is not allowed to leave the district of Foix. He is permanently under police surveillance.

[Begin recording] [Chapelard] Do you consider yourself a political prisoner?

[El Houari] I do in a way, because if I did not have what you call Islamist ideas, I might not be here. I know that the Western world dislikes Islamists, but this feeling should not turn into hatred toward Islamists. When I said...[pauses] I have never called on anyone to attack French interests, the French, or France. It is not in the interest of the FIS—who will enjoy power one day—history will judge this—to attack foreigners, it has nothing to gain in doing so. [end recording]

[Fines] Today, Djaffar El Houari does not know how long he will be under surveillance, a few days, weeks, or even years. As for now, he intends to appeal against the administrative decision to have him under house arrest. He will then wait.

Kidnapped Official Murdered in Western Algeria

NC1311214193 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov 13 (AFP)—A town market official who was kidnapped earlier this week in western Algeria has been found murdered in a neighbouring town, security officials said Saturday [13 November].

Fassi el-Hadi, 36, an official in the market at Mouzaia, was seized by four people in a private vehicle on Thursday, the officials said. The identity of the kidnappers was unknown.

His body was found with his throat cut on Friday in the neighbouring town of El Affroun, they said.

Separately, a 36-year-old policeman, Bensabra Djiad, died after being injured in an attack in Jijel, on the eastern coast last Tuesday, the same source said Saturday.

The policeman was injured when gunman opened fire with hunting rifles on people sitting in a cafe in the town, they said. One other person was seriously injured.

FIS Founder Kidnapped in Algiers

NC1411182993 Paris AFP in English 1703 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov 14 (AFP)—A founding member of the banned fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has been kidnapped by a group that has vowed to strike against extremists, the prosecutor's office here said Sunday [14 November].

Mohammed Tidjini Boudjelkha, a mathematics lecturer at Algiers' Bab Ezzouar University, was kidnapped on November 8 after gunmen claiming to be police officers burst into his home at 10:00 p.m.

Boudjelkha's wife Asma told authorities that on Thursday she received an anonymous phone call telling

her that her husband was in the hands of a group known as the Organisation of Free Young Algerians and that he was a traitor.

The organisation, which claims to be anti-fundamentalist, surfaced about 10 days ago and has vowed to "make supporters of those shedding the blood of Algeria's children pay the price for their action."

A tract distributed by the organisation says that it will apply the principle of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" in carrying out its campaign.

Security officials said that four Islamic militants, a paramilitary policeman and four civilians were killed in various regions of Algeria over the week.

Armed fundamentalists have been waging a guerrilla war against the authorities since January 1992, when the military intervened to cancel the second round of a general election the FIS was poised to win.

National Dialogue Commission Official Sums Up Progress

LD1511094693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Abdelkader Bensalah, the National Dialogue Commission rapporteur, held his second meeting with representatives of the national press at El Mithak residence this afternoon to inform the press and the public of the status of the national dialogue process in order to overcome the clear shortage in information, resulting in a media treatment that does not serve the dialogue. Abdel Moumin Bekar attended the meeting and prepared this report:

[Bekar] The meeting of the National Dialogue Commission rapporteur with the press was on the evaluation of the progress made by the commission with the political and social forces during the previous weeks. The rapporteur counted over 60 organizations with which the Commission held preliminary meetings, during which it listened to the views supporting the dialogue. In agreement with the concerned parties, the commission put forward a conception for the course to be followed to achieve the national meeting. Hence, and after its preliminary meetings and in cooperation with the concerned parties, the commission agreed on an agenda for the bilateral meetings and in principle, a timetable for the multilateral meetings.

During the initial stages of the dialogue, the commission has registered a number of positive indicators, which Bensalah summed up as follows:

—A keen desire by all the sides that the commission has contacted for cooperation to bring the country out of its present situation, though views vary on the means and methods.

—All parties consider dialogue as the sole way out of the crisis and that the national interest necessitates that everyone give up some of the party's demands, though this readiness varies from one organization to another.

—The majority of the organizations stress the need for all to be involved in the dialogue and not to exclude anybody from the meeting except for those who wish to be excluded.

—All endorsed the need to restore the electoral course and strengthen the democratic orientation.

Among the positive indicators which the commission also registered is the organizations' demand that the meeting approves the groundwork of administering the transitional period, and issue a communique or statement in which all the participants pledge to respect the contents of the document endorsed in the meeting.

Most of the participants in the initial meetings also demanded the need for the state to adopt a number of measures with the aim of calming the situation down. This issue, Bensalah said, was the subject of study by the commission before referring it to the competent quarters.

On the other hand, the rapporteur of the Commission of National Dialogue pointed out that the initial meetings highlighted a number of ideas on which no consensus was obtained, among which was the issue of the sides which should be invited to participate in the dialogue, the length of the transitional period, the meeting's prerogatives, and the guarantees.

The spokesman said that these ideas could be the subject of bilateral and multilateral meetings.

Among the other points on which the Commission and most of the parties agreed upon were those in connection with the future shape of the system of government where they believe in the need to adhere to the principles of [the] November [revolution] and the principles of the Constitution, and postponing the society's program until the conditions settle.

In his second meeting with the national press, the rapporteur of the Commission of National Dialogue appeared more relaxed than the first meeting, perhaps because the Commission had succeeded in overcoming some obstacles, obtaining clarity of vision, and having the feeling that it would succeed in convening the meeting and achieve national consensus.

Egypt

Musa Agrees With Clinton's 'Emphasis' on Peace Talks

NC1311151793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today stressed the importance of giving impetus to the peace negotiations on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian tracks. He said that this is what Egypt is trying

to achieve. He added that Egypt agrees with the emphasis U.S. President Bill Clinton put on this particular point yesterday.

This came in a comment by 'Amr Musa on President Clinton's statements in the news conference he held yesterday in Washington following his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in which he pledged to work to give impetus to the peace negotiations on all tracks.

Musa said: Giving impetus to the peace negotiations, specifically on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, is very important for promoting the talks on all tracks to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis.

On the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, the Egyptian foreign minister said that the two sides made progress at their last meeting in Cairo as a subcommittee. He added that the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on Monday [15 November] will be based on what the two sides have achieved, adding that the two sides' subcommittee will meet first and this will be followed by a meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli committee in Taba. He said that the venue for the meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli subcommittee has not been decided yet.

Musa, Israeli Ambassador Discuss Peace Process

NC1311210093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Israeli Ambassador David Sultan. Following the meeting, an Israeli source said that they discussed the developments of the peace process on all the negotiating tracks.

The Israeli ambassador said that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations will meet in Cairo on Monday [15 November] and that the Taba negotiations will be resumed after that in line with what the two sides agree upon.

Sultan pointed out that no date has yet been set for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Cairo. He said that he briefed Musa on the general results of Rabin's talks in Washington.

Israeli Knesset Delegation Meets Musa

NC1411164793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with a delegation from the Israeli Knesset currently visiting Cairo. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party, said that discussion during the meeting focused on the peace process and the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Darawshah said that there is a desire to overcome the difficulties and resolve the differences before 13 December.

Darawshah said that there is ample opportunity to resolve the problems and make progress toward implementing the agreement. He commended the constructive role played by the Egyptian president, Government, and people in supporting the peace march, reconciling views, overcoming the difficulties, placing the negotiations on the right track, and encouraging the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Eli Dayan, head of the Labor Party's parliamentary bloc, said that he conveyed to the Egyptian foreign minister Israel's appreciation of Egyptian efforts. Dayan added that Yasir 'Arafat's denunciation of acts of violence will help achieve more progress.

Editorial Claims Israel Still Rejects Peace

NC1411061593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR remarks that Israel continues to demonstrate its public rejection of peace and indeed encourages and supports those who oppose the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, which many have described as an agreement capable of ending the regional conflict.

In an editorial in Sunday's edition, the paper says that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is not very different from the former prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, and demands too much in return for too little.

AL-AKHBAR points out that in his joint news conference with U.S. President Clinton during his recent visit to the United States, Rabin demanded that U.S. aid to Israel continue as a condition for proceeding with the peace process. It notes that he also demanded the swift transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem although the city is the capital of the state of Palestine. He also urged that any talk about withdrawal from the Golan Heights be postponed and demanded an end to the Arab boycott of Israel.

AL-AKHBAR wonders: Can one say after all this that Israel wants peace and how much of the peace process will remain if these demands are met—demands by which Israel has sought to ruin the peace process?

The paper concludes by declaring that the U.S. Administration, the sponsor of peace between the Arabs and Israel, should have the answer to this question.

'Bright Star' Military Exercise Begins

NC1411161193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Alexandria, 14 Nov (MENA)—The main phase of the Bright Star 93 exercise between the Egyptian and U.S. forces began on the northern coast west of Alexandria today.

Egyptian and U.S. forces consisting of units from the marines, commandos, and paratroopers will participate in the seven-day exercise, in addition to armored units; mechanized infantry; naval, air, and air defense forces; and electronic warfare personnel. An enemy attack will

be repulsed and naval and air landings will take place in cooperation with a friendly state.

The exercise consists of four phases: preparation for and organization of the battle; the advance and the assembly of forces; destroying an enemy that has penetrated the border; and completing the enemy's defeat and returning it to the international border.

The initial phases of the exercise started in early October when an estimated 15,000 U.S. troops began arriving at Egyptian ports and airports. Several joint live-fire exercises were also held during these initial phases.

Libyan Official Meets Musa, Comments on Sanctions

NC1511113193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan People's Congress for Unity, who is currently visiting Cairo. Speaking after the meeting, al-Fazzani said that his meeting with Minister Musa today was part of the constant consultations between Egypt and Libya on developments at the Arab and African levels.

On the Security Council resolution to toughen the sanctions on the Libyan Jamahiriyah, al-Fazzani said: We reject this attitude. The Jamahiriyah has advanced several positive initiatives to resolve the issue, but they were met with intransigence. He described the resolution as an expression of the arrogance of power against small peoples that seek to maintain their sovereignty, national will, and freedom of decision. He stressed that the Security Council resolution is in conflict with all international charters, for how can an entire people be imprisoned for a mere suspicion that has not been proven, he asked? He added that the human rights charters emphasize the need to provide guarantees that the human rights, including one's right to defend himself, are not be violated.

Al-Fazzani noted that the Jamahiriyah had submitted initiatives accepting in principle the trial of the suspects and leaving the matter up to the international defense panel formed to deal with the case, so they can handle it with the Western legal bodies wherever there are adequate guarantees of a just and fair trial.

On the Libyan statements which hold the Arab states responsible for the toughening of sanctions against the Jamahiriyah, al-Fazzani said that if the Arabs had stood together, rejected this resolution, and rejected the implementation of Resolutions 731 and 748, then Resolution 883, which toughens the sanctions, would not have been passed.

Al-Fazzani praised Egypt's positive role in this regard and expected Egypt to continue to play this role.

Asked about the closure of the Egyptian-Libyan borders, al-Fazzani stressed that the borders are open and that reports on their closure are not true.

On a meeting of the seven-member Ministerial Committee of the Arab League entrusted to follow the Libyan-Western crisis, al-Fazzani said that there is currently no plan to convene a meeting of that committee.

Musa Addresses Meeting on Peace Process

NC1411220893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Syria is a full partner in the peace process, adding that without Syria there will be no permanent and just peace in the Middle East. He also affirmed that Syria has the right to recover all its territories, exactly as Egypt did under its peace agreement with Israel. Musa further explained that Egypt will not accept an incomplete withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Addressing a joint meeting of the People's Assembly Arab Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and National Security Committees this evening, Musa said the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is very important and is not a ruse or a waste of time. He affirmed that there has been an essential change in the general psychological atmosphere among the various parties. The merit of this agreement will be felt shortly after Israel withdraws from Gaza and Jericho.

Musa noted that this agreement frankly recognizes the PLO, the Palestinian people, and Palestinian land. It mentions the words withdrawal and Jerusalem, which means that Jerusalem's status is negotiable. He said the Palestinians achieved these advantages at a time when the internal situation was on the brink of explosion and the international circumstances were inappropriate [words indistinct].

Answering deputies' questions, Musa said the United States is not an enemy and does not seek to sabotage Arab relations because this course is not the language of the age. It is in Egypt's interest to have strong relations with the United States, he added.

Musa stressed the role that the United States has played in achieving reconciliation and peace between Egypt and Israel. He said it is not in the U.S. interest to make one state the supreme force in the Middle East.

Musa affirmed the need to achieve a national balance in the Middle East to help national security and consolidate peace. He noted that the Egyptian position on this matter is clear, explaining that unless there is a balance in the disarmament process, there will be no peace in the Middle East.

Musa expressed Egypt's full support for the achievement of Arab reconciliation, stressing that this is a very important matter. He stressed that Egypt has not

neglected this subject and that there are quiet steps in this direction. He said the Arab world must act to achieve solidarity.

On the situation in Sudan, Musa explained that relations between the two countries still need a lot of repair. He said that despite our differences with our Sudanese brothers over some policies, we do not accept the secession or partition of southern Sudan. He added that there should be no infringement on Sudan's sovereignty over all its territory. He noted that Egypt calls for stability in the region and for abstaining from any act that inflames feelings or disturbs this stability.

On the situation in Libya, Musa stressed that Egypt's stance is clear. Egypt is against terrorism and against anything that threatens stability. The Arabs must be in the forefront of states that respect law and the UN Charter. This is clear in the behavior of Egypt's policy. He said Egypt had hoped that the resolution tightening sanctions on Libya would not be issued and that some waiting could have been done.

Musa said that the situation in Somalia is still bad and that there are fears that the situation may revert to what it was before if the UN forces withdraw. If these forces withdraw, he noted, and if the Somali factions are not disarmed, they may resume their fighting. He called for charting a clear plan to establish peace in Somalia before withdrawal of the U.S. forces after several months. The plan should focus on strengthening the ceasefire, disarming the various factions, concluding national reconciliation among all parties without exception, building a Somali state without concentrating on Mogadishu, paying attention to the rest of provinces, leaving Mogadishu to the end of the process, and on reconstruction. He noted that settling the Somali crisis must not be at the expense of any party and that the power of any party should not be exaggerated.

Musa said that he will carry a message from President Mubarak to Ethiopian leader Meles Zenawi on Tuesday in his capacity as the leader authorized by the OAU to resolve the Somali crisis, noting that Egypt's efforts stem from its interest in achieving security and stability, because this region is part of the Middle East Security..

Musa also reviewed the situation in Burundi, Nigeria, Liberia, and South Africa and Egypt's efforts to achieve peace and end African disputes there. He said that Egypt will host the Nonaligned summit in late May designed to reform this movement's course so that all members may participate in the future of the new world. He noted that Egypt will participate in the Group of 15 summit scheduled to convene in India in December.

Musa, Somali Faction Leader Discuss Developments

NC1411122993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1042 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Mohamed Abshar, leader of the Somali National Salvation Front, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Abshar said that they discussed current developments in Somalia, particularly in the light of the decisions of France, Belgium, and the United States to withdraw their forces by the end of March 1994.

He said that the international community has not done its duty in supporting the efforts to implement the Addis Ababa agreement for national reconciliation, particularly with regard to disarming the factions in order to make it possible to restore peace, undertake the rebuilding of Somalia, and prepare the conditions for free national elections under the supervision of the United Nations, the Arab League, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference Organization so the Somalis can determine their own future.

Burundi Envoy Departs Cairo for Bonn

NC1211153593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Nov (MENA)—Jean Minani, health minister and the envoy-at-large of the Burundi Government, left Cairo for Bonn at noon today following a three-day visit to Egypt.

Minani held talks with President Husni Mubarak and a number of senior Egyptian officials on the current situation in Burundi and the OAU's role in solving its problems.

The Burundi minister told MENA that his talks with President Mubarak and senior officials are bound to give a strong impetus to the steps being taken to restore stability in Burundi. He added that during the talks he expressed his country's wish for the dispatch of African peacekeeping troops to Burundi. He noted that the OAU has already sent a fact-finding team at ambassadorial level. The team will submit a detailed report to the OAU foreign ministers meeting to be held in Addis Ababa on 17 November to adopt the appropriate decision on the issue of the African force.

Minani pointed out that a number of points concerning the number of troops and their financing will be discussed at the foreign ministerial meetings. He explained that Egypt is playing a central role in bringing about peace and stability to Burundi, not only as the current OAU chairman, but also because of its African affiliation and the political weight it carries worldwide—weight that enables it to contribute effectively to organizing the formation of the African force.

Minister Minani added that he held contacts during his visit with a number of accredited foreign ambassadors to discuss the possibility of financing the peace-keeping force.

Commenting on the present situation in Burundi, Minani pointed out that a state of caution still prevails, although civilians have returned to their jobs. He added that people still fear night attacks by the army, although it has declared that it will obey government orders.

Minani noted that the ministers who had assembled at the French Embassy have now moved to a hotel located five km from the capital. He said that the hotel is surrounded by French soldiers for protection. [passage omitted]

Two Arrested for Publishing Islamist Publication

NC1311185993 Paris AFP in English 1815 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 13 (AFP)—A Syrian and an Egyptian were arrested Saturday [13 November] in Cairo on charges of printing and distributing a pro-Moslem fundamentalist publication, the police said.

Security officers seized 6,000 copies of a book promoting Moslem extremist ideology from the Syrian publisher, 'Abd-al-Qadir Mahmud.

They also arrested an Egyptian printer, Salah 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Isa, who was accused of printing the book.

Elsewhere, security officials on Saturday arrested four smugglers and seized 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of explosives, 20 automatic rifles and ammunition in the southern Sinai desert, police said.

The smugglers admitted planning to sell the arms to fundamentalists in Cairo and Upper (southern) Egypt, they said.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Rejects Foreign Trials for Lockerbie Suspects

NC1211204793 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Washington, Nov 12 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reaffirmed in an interview published Friday [12 November] that he had no intention of allowing the two suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing to be tried outside of Libya.

In an interview with the magazine MIDDLE EAST INSIGHT he made no mention of an earlier offer to allow the two Libyans' trial to be held in a third country.

"We have no confidence in the West," said al-Qadhdhafi. "We believe that the suspected Libyans will not receive an objective hearing. Their human rights would be violated."

Asked how he proposed solving the problem, al-Qadhdhafi said, "We have courts of law in our own country. Whoever has any evidence may come to Libya and present it, and whoever is found guilty will be punished."

Tripoli had previously proposed turning the suspects over to Switzerland for trial, an offer rejected by London and Washington.

The interview was conducted in Benghazi before the U.N. Security Council's decision to tighten sanctions against Libya by ordering a freeze on certain Libyan assets overseas and an embargo of certain oil industry equipment.

The United States, Britain and France are demanding that Libyan authorities turn over the two men to U.S. or Scottish authorities.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on Lockerbie, U.S. 'Agents'

LD1311131293 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1933 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Zulaytan on 10 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. First, I would like to express thanks for the warm fraternal welcome given to us by the town of Zulaytan, its youth and old people. This expresses the revolutionary spirit, on the one hand, and the fraternal and sentimental ties that bind us together. [passage omitted] A large number of comrades along the path of the revolution are from the populace of Zulaytan. Now the number has increased as those comrades now have their own children. They will receive the honor of having been awarded the medal of this historic comradeship. [chants and applause] Soon these comrades, their children and families, will be the holders of this historic medal—the medal of this comradeship. Fortunately I used to be in Misratah and the revolution movement spread from Sabha to Misratah, and in the latter there lived students from Zulaytan, al-Khums, Sillatah, and the surrounding areas. We were fortunate that we all were present at this place. The secret revolutionary cells expanded, the cells which are now the revolutionary committees which operate openly. [passage omitted]

You should know that the populace of the town of Zulaytan, together with a number of other Libyan towns and villages, have been partners in the revolution right from the start, and participated in the establishment of the revolutionary movement, hence the fact that the revolution—the al-Fatih Revolution—is regarded as being theirs. Zulaytan did not join the revolution [later on]. It did not respond after having heard the call of the revolution. You responded to the call of the revolution before the revolution was declared, and since we began talking in secret about the necessity of a popular revolution. Even if I had not joined the army it was inevitable that the al-Fatih revolution would take place by the people.

From the beginning, I had secret revolutionary committees at that time in Zlitan and in other cities. I had already founded secret committees which we named at the time: the secret revolutionary cells. World revolutionary committees later copied them. [passage omitted]

This is different from a coup d'etat, when someone conspires against a government, a person, or a party against another, implementing colonial orders. Such a

person would not be able to depend on the popular masses. The coup perpetrators seize the radio station only to issue orders against the people through threats and promises. However, our paramount objective in seizing the radio station was to talk to our people, not to issue orders agianst them, but to issue orders to them to fight. [passage omitted]

Now we are again in a state of confrontation with colonialism. It is not the issue of Lockerbie. No one can deceive us now that it is the issue of Lockerbie. There was no Lockerbie in 1986. In 1911 there was no Lockerbie. In 1882, when Britain attacked Egypt, the latter had no Lockerbie or a Pan-Am issue. In 1830, When France occupied Algeria, the latter had not caused the crash of the Pan-Am airliner, nor had it been accused of it. At that time no one occupied Kuwait so they could say: We have attacked Egypt in 1882 because it occupied Kuwait; or Algeria in 1830 because it occupied Kuwait; or Tunisia in 1881 or something because it occupied Kuwait; or Libya in 1911 because it occupied Kuwait. They attacked us then and nobody had occupied Kuwait. There was no Kuwait. They attacked us and colonized us then, and we were not accused of causing the crash of the Pan-Am airliner—there was no Pan-Am airliner then; there was no Lockerbie issue then. They cannot now make fools of us by saying to us that the issue is that of Lockerbie or the Pan-Am airliner.

The Palestinian people who are being persecuted and annihilated—they are burning them with fire as they did yesterday and the day before yesterday. The Israeli colonialists are burning the dwellings of the Palestinians which are on their own land and on the land of their forefathers—the West Bank, and not even in the land of 1948; the land of 1967—burning them. The Israeli Army dynamites the dwellings. Did the Palestinian people occupy Kuwait? Did they cause the crash of a Pan-Am airliner? The Somali people who are now being subjected to annihilation—did they occupy Kuwait? Were they accused of being involved in the Lockerbie affair? They cannot make fools of us, as we are more aware than them, and have more experience than them. [applause and chants]

They cannot make fools of us by bringing us the Lockerbie affair. Therefore we will not look at Lockerbie and regard it as an affair. I did not discuss it with President Husni Mubarak. When I went to Egypt, we did not discuss it at all. We ignored it and we did not talk about Lockerbie because the issue is about a new colonialist onslaught. In Egypt, they call it the new world disorder and not order. In English they say order [preceding word in English], but in Egypt they call it disorder, in other words the new world disorder. We are indeed confronting the new world disorder and we are not confronting Lockerbie. [passage omitted]

There was the story about the fan which they mentioned which was used as an excuse to occupy Algeria. The same is happening now about Lockerbie, which one of these days will turn out to be a lie. One day it will appear that it had been concocted and that it was a lie. This is an episode in the series of the confrontation.

What has been happening? I must have spoken to you and told you that the major countries in the Arab homeland are Egypt and Algeria. These states today are going through a great deal of trouble from two angles: from what is called terrorism at home—that which resembles civil war and armed violence—and from economic difficulties. It was conspiracy that brought these two Arab countries to this situation. The West is happy about Egypt and Algeria today. They know that Egypt and Algeria today are suffering. Two countries are suffering a great deal of pain from these two points which I just mentioned. Nevertheless, there is a resolve and there is a determination to confront violence and to control security and solve the economic problem, especially in Egypt, where there is an earnestness to mobilize efforts as much as possible to overcome this crisis.

There is a will and a determination in Egypt. The same thing is also true in Algeria, despite government instability. The prime minister has been changed a number of times. However, Algeria is also earnest in confronting this crisis. But as far as colonialism—the West—is concerned, they know that two major Arab states are gripped by these internal problems.

Iraq's turn came, because Iraq built an industrial force and not a military force. No matter how strong its military might, it is just a drop in the ocean compared to the West's power. Iraq has not built a military force in order to threaten anyone. You have seen for yourselves. If it had military might they would not have defeated it. If Iraq really was as they claimed, that it had a mighty military force, where is it? Today they have divided Iraq. They fly over Iraqi territory and the Iraqis are unable to resist the planes which fly over them. They have taken the north and they have taken the south.

The story that Iraq was destroyed because it had a huge military power is then a lie. Iraq had become an industrial power. It created many middle industrial schools and institutes and introduced technical education in middle schools. It became the first country in the Third World probably to succeed in technical education. Some industries were set up with the money Iraq obtained from the Gulf states, namely Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait during the war with Iran, because the latter was seen as a threat. After the revolution, Iran became a threat to the [Arabian] peninsula, to the Gulf. So they found someone to fight Iran and thus Iraq was embroiled in a war with Iran. They said: We will fight to the last Iraqi soldier. Just as the Arabs used to say: We will fight to the last Egyptian soldier against the Israelis. In the Gulf they said: We will fight to the last Iraqi soldier against the Iranian revolution.

America gave arms to Iraq and Israel gave arms to Iran. This became clear with Irangate and the scandals which are well-known now. Reagan contributed to weakening the Iranian war effort by hitting the oil refineries—that is

common knowledge. During the war with Iraq, he ordered strikes against the oil refineries in Iran in order to help Iraq. The Israelis were also selling arms to Iran. This is a fact. This means that The United States and Israel agreed that it was necessary to embroil Iran and Iraq in a long war which would weaken them both.

Iraq used the Gulf money for its industrial boom and did not use it all in the war. Then the West realized that Iraq was emerging. They used it to fight Iran and then they destroyed it. It was they who created the Kuwaiti [issue] for Iraq. It was they who told Iraq to occupy Kuwait. It was the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad which told Iraq: Go into Kuwait and we will back you. This was aimed at embroiling it in Kuwait. Iraq went into Kuwait and they hit it.

After that we were expecting it. We said that Libya's turn will come. [passage indistinct] This is a scenario. This is a serial. This is a new onslaught on the Arab nation—a new method to create a feasible pretext, to impose control over the United Nations and exploit it in order to cover up for this new colonialism.

This scenario became clear even before they created the problem of PanAm-Lockerbie. We were expecting that we would be implicated. Why? It is because before Lockerbie there had been other feeble and fabricated excuses against Libya which showed that they must find a pretext. However, the objective is to attack the Arab nation. Before Lockerbie there was al-Rabitah. Before al-Rabitah, there was the Gulf of Sidra. After al-Rabitah, they would talk about Tarhuna and after Tarhuna they would talk about Tajura. They would go through all the Libyan towns.

Syria's turn will come. It is not enough to have peace with Syria. Syria's military power must be demolished; also its economic power. You will see in the future—if they succeed in the plot—the plot will be to destroy Syria's military and industrial power. we do not rule out that they will create a rift between Syria and Turkey; there are signs of this today. One could not rule out that they would create a rift between Iraq and Syria, between the Israelis and Syria. They are destroying Egypt and they are destroying Algeria; destroying Iraq; destroying Libya; destroying Syria, and afterward they would advance to music on the Arab homeland. No one would be able to resist them. It is because they want the wealth of the Arab homeland. They want Algeria's oil, Libya's oil, the oil of the Arabian Peninsula.

The power which gives strength to the Arabs must be demolished. Egypt which has no oil but has power, and has always gone to the assistance of Syria, Yemen, Algeria. Consequently Egypt must be destroyed. Algeria fought them and sacrificed 1.5 million martyrs, and they are making it pay the price today. They are making Egypt pay the price for the period of 'Abd al-Nasir.

Well, brothers, whether we agree or not, or are wise or unwise, in the end confrontation is being imposed on us. There is a confrontation being imposed on us because we are included in the colonial plot. If they got our oil as easily as they get it from the Arabian Peninsula, then that would be good for them. You look at the Arab Peninsula. Is it independent? No, it is not independent. They are shifting its oil. They want to land their forces there and they are doing so. If they did not get these things with ease they would be prepared to create excuses and fabricate lies in order to occupy oil areas.

Naturally, it is difficult for them to occupy a land like Libya, in the same way as it was difficult for them to occupy Somalia, and as they failed in Vietnam, as France failed in Algeria when France annexed it. Britain failed to make Egypt belong to it or make India belong to it. They failed in the past. It is certain that they will fail in the future. However, their mouth waters when it comes to oil and the resources of the Arab homeland. This is what is driving them and making their mouth waters. Greed is driving them. The greedy one deludes himself that he might obtain what he is coveting, even if this an impossible thing. Even if Libya's occupation is impossible they delude themselves that they may be able to do so and take its oil. However, they are creating a terror force. They want to terrorize these peoples. They conspire against these peoples from the inside, as they used to conspire against 'Abd-al-Nasir. [They organized] 60 coup attempts against 'Abd-al-Nasir. 'Abd-al-Nasir told me that 60 coup attempts were organized by the West against him between 1952 and 1970. [applause and slogans]

They probably cannot create an occupying force. It is difficult for them to settle in other [peoples'] land unless they create a hireling government, like that of [King] Idris al-Sanusi. They brought the American forces from beyond the oceans and seas and these were stationed in Libya without resistance. But when there is resistance it is impossible for them to settle in other peoples' land. [passage omitted] [applause and slogans]

They form a terrorist force, a conspiratorial force. Accordingly, they are more dependent on the intelligence apparatus in this scenario than on their military strength.

Their secret intelligence could succeed, but their military force could fail. They have taken this into account. They know that their armies cannot settle in land where there is resistance. The land would burn under their feet. They cannot settle in a land which has a people resisting and demanding freedom. But they now rely on intrigue. They rely on the Western intelligence apparatus more than they rely on Western military force. Thus, they adopt secret conspiratorial methods for sabotage, assassination, and buying spies and agents.

We only draw attention when a member of one of our families falls into the trap of Western intelligence. God forbid. What does this mean? It means that this person is weak, vile, has not received any upbringing, and is ignorant. If he is deemed ignorant, then he should have read history. He would have discovered that history has disgraced the spies and agents, and those who sold their homelands and conspired with the foreigner. History

despises them. We despise them. Haven't they read the history of the long-standing Libyan-Italian confrontation? [passage omitted]

Whoever falls now in the imperialist, intelligence, secret design...[pauses] And we have said that they do not rely any more on their armies as much as they do on their secret intelligence, and secret intelligence buy the agents, spies, and traitors.

This would be shameful if one fell into such a plan. It is embarrassing to hear them say that the deputy ambassador of Palestine in Tunis belongs to the Israeli intelligence, Mossad. This is something shameful. How can you be an agent of an enemy who occupies your land, kills your children, sisters, and your mother, and drags them in the streets? How can you be an agent of the intelligence service of the Americans who yesterday killed our children and women, and who support the Zionist enemy? What kind of people want to do this? What is the color of their blood? Who are their fathers and mothers? [chants and applause] What do you call such a person? Brave? No. Coward? A cowering person? A frightened person? A bastard? A person who knows no shame, and who does not have religious faith? What is more repulsive on this globe than the imperialist forces and their intelligence services?

It is a period of advance; there is no period of truce or peace and good relations. There is a period of confrontation. I said that in actual fact we are in need of a study—a home study or a family study—to ascertain the reasons which make one choose such dirt—to elect to be a spy for the American intelligence service, the bitter enemy of the Arab nation, of freedom, and of the peoples aspiring for prosperity, safety, and peace on their own lands. Our blood is still running and that was caused oppressively and unjustly by America. If a person becomes an agent of American intelligence...[pauses] We are in need of a study, a psychological and social study. What is the reason? Is it money? Collect money for him. Let us collect money for each other; establish a fund that protects everyone from selling out his own country for the benefit of his own stomach. Let us announce a fund to help anyone thinking about selling his country for his stomach. [chants and applause]

You are right, we need a study. If the reason is economic—that is to say that a person sells his country for his stomach—let us look into it. If the reason is fear and cowardice then let us treat it. He has fear, and when America comes he does not fight it. If you have fear then run away like all those who have run away, but do not enrol into its service. Go to Australia; go there. Go to Egypt; many have gone to Egypt. Go there and tell them that you are frightened that Libya may encounter a crisis, and therefore you wish to live in Egypt. Live in Egypt. [applause]

But for you to escape to America in order to enrol into its intelligence service and begin to give information about your own people, or to stay here and by way of correspondence you begin to give them information about your people, this is a very repulsive thing. This matter requires a study—who is this person? We should even permit his slaughter. [chants and applause] [passage omitted]

The issue is confrontation, no less than it was in 1911, or in 1882, or in 1830, or 1831, or the crusaders' onslaught. It is no less. We have always confronted campaigns in North Africa and checked them. They are like a butterfly which circles around the fire, falls in the fire, and dies. Another butterfly comes and once again circles the fire. They seem unable to learn the lesson of history. They forget history very quickly. They have never settled in North Africa, yet they have never ceased their campaigns on North Africa; even after 1,000 years they are now coming again. Therefore, it is confrontation. Let it be confrontation until the day of judgment. If it is written by God that there will be animosity and hatred between us until the day of judgment, let it be until the day of judgment.

However, I would say that if they win at present, they will win through intelligence and not in a military confrontation. If they have learned a lesson from history, it is this new change: namely instead of military confrontation they resort to secret confrontation through intelligence, spies, winning over agents in those countries, like Idris Sanusi, who brought their forces with music. They come to Libya without facing resistance. This is what they want in the end. What is important is for their forces to come and settle here. If they try to use force they could not settle.

They have changed now and are waging a secret war. Western intelligence is leading the battle at present. Its aim is to infiltrate our ranks, winning over agents and spies, searching for those of weak character, cowards, insensitive, the disgraced, and those who sell their homeland for their stomach, and those who worship the dollar. Those are the people they are looking for.

However, I go back now to the first point, when one of us, God forbid, falls into this trap. It is necessary to carry out a family study, as I told you, and not a study of the tribe or the region, because it is an issue that is connected to his personality and his family. It is neither connected to his tribe nor to his town. All these towns, people, and tribes would not sell Libya, would not sell their homeland. It is impossible for them to side with America. However, we could find one. Therefore, the question needs a study of that person and his family, the environment in which he lives. Consequently, any family which has this disease should be restricted and concentrated upon, and be considered infected and sick with a contagious disease. It should be confined and analyzed so that we may know the reasons why it joined the enemy, or why one of its members sold us out and left to join the enemy.

Take for example anyone who has escaped to America and begun to serve in the American intelligence service, and who has sold his country for his stomach by giving information; he searches. He even contacts his family

and tells them: Please give me information so that I can pass it onto American intelligence regarding the things that happened after I left Libya. How can we destroy the great man-made river? How can we destroy the factories? How can we kill al- Qadhdhafi? The al-Rabitah plant—give us information about it. The tunnels which they are digging in Tarhounah—provide us with information about them. A person escapes and starts working for American intelligence; he wants to give more information to American intelligence. This is really strange.

This person, who is repulsive and dirty, should be studied, as well as his family. We should know about him. We should know about his family. How come such a family, which has a person such as this among its members, lives among us? The study should not be at tribal, or town, or area level. The study should be at a family or an individual level. This we must do. We have here stray dogs that have escaped and begun to bark abroad—at American intelligence; they are spies. They are spies working for American intelligence in order to supply it with information about Libya only. We should conduct a study about them and their families. Who are these families? What are their circumstances?

To me a study such as this about the individual and his family is far more important than an investigation by the police and the prosecution, who ask: What have you done? We know. Here is a person who has betrayed the country and took dollars and gave information to America. What is new in this? He can only tell you: I took dollars and I gave them information about my country. That is it; one question and one answer; we have finished in one word. But the issue goes on: Why have you done that? This is the question we want him to answer. Who are you? Who is your family? Why have you done that? Not your tribe or your country? Is there a Libyan tribe that sells out Libya to America? Impossible. This is because that would be like Libya selling itself out.

What will America do when it comes? It will obstruct the great man-made river. It will stop industry. It will stop agriculture. It will take the oil so that it can revive the American economy. If America came here, whether during the Reagan era or before him or after him, this is the aim of America. Its aim is to colonize us. This is the aim of colonialism. Were they not here? Why did they come in 1954 and establish their bases in Libya? It was because they knew that Libya had oil and gas. They wanted to place their hand on it. Why did not they establish those bases in Mauritania, or the Sudan, or even in Egypt?

Look, there are other countries around us, such as Tunisia and so on. Why did America not establish its bases there? It chose to establish them in Libya. Why in Libya, the poor and backward country, the desert with an area of 2 million km? Why would it establish its bases in hell and in a country like this? Because there is oil. They went to the Gulf because there is oil in it, too. Why did they not establish their bases in Lebanon, which is open to them, or in Syria, or Jordan? Because there is no oil in these countries. Why should they bother? If they had to cross these countries, they would do so for refuelling before moving on to the oil-rich regions.

So when America comes to Libya, if you ask the illiterate or a 100 year-old person why do they think America has come to Libya, they will say: To take oil. This is true. [chants]

So long as America...[pauses] And if America's objective is to seize oil, it is clear that there will not be any tribe, I say there will not be a tribe which will support America, because the latter will be taking its oil. There will not be any Libyan town which will support America because the latter will take its oil. However, individuals could support America when they are agents and when they are taking dollars in return for their quota of oil. They might ask an individual: How much oil do you get? Take this million because you will never earn one million from oil. It is possible that they will give an individual one million. There was a Libyan whom they asked: You testify with lies in the Lockerbie affair and we will give you one million. They gave hi one million and he defected to them and has remaine under the protection of the U.S. intelligence services. He will remain under their protection for ever. He has lost his freedom. They have locked him up and he is staying because they gave him one million.

Obviously they have not given him the million yet. What could he do with it? He is confined. But at first they tempted him by saying: Anyone who testifies against Libya in the Lockerbie affair will get one million. So he came forward and said: I will testify. They said: Come forward. So he went and he asked them: Give me the million. They said to him: Go inside and we will then give you the million. After he went inside, they locked him up. They told him: When the trial begins, you will testify and then we will give you the million. This person will not be released before the trial nor after the trial.

They conducted an interview on the matter. They said: What is the fate of this person? They said that his fate will be permanent detention by American intelligence; before and after the verdict. They lured him for one million. An individual can sell the oil. But they would not go to members of a tribe and give each one of them one million so that it would sell. This is because the livelihood of each son and each grandson of the tribe lies in its country's wealth, and you cannot put a price on this. As for the individual, they can strike a bargain with him. [passage omitted]

Attention should be given to the family and to the individual because we are in a state of confrontation. We are confronting a superpower. You will be harmed if there is a spy among us, if there is a saboteur among us. Let us assume that this saboteur is operating this machine, and that he has sold himself to a foreign intelligence service. He will sabotage this machine. If he is in charge of a plant, then the plant would collapse on

the orders of foreign intelligence, because the latter have bought the person who is running the plant. Let us assume that there is a member of the Muslim brotherhood who is in charge of an agricultural project—and this did happen in Libya some years ago—and that he was asked by America—it is known that members of the Muslim brotherhood are agents of America—to sabotage the project. To this very day that project stands in ruin. A village, an entire oasis, is in a very difficult situation; nothing is of any use any more.

Imagine, the person in question hails from that village but betrayed it. [passage omitted] He was told by America: Sabotage the oasis and escape. He did. Is it logical for the oasis to sell itself to America? If it does then its fate will be as it is today. But an individual can betray and sell himself to America. They gave him dollars and he sabotaged the project. [passage omitted] If his village or his oasis had managed to get that person it would have slain him; definitely. Did the betrayer benefit his village or oasis? No. He has destroyed it.

What I want to say is that a person who serves a foreign intelligence service can harm you; he can sabotage a village or a project or an establishment. He is a woodworm.

Be careful. When one person betrays he can sometimes destroy his whole community; someone who is in a sensitive position, then there is a gap. It is also the case when a ruler betrays. Before Idris al-Sanusi, the Americans could not enter Libya, but when he came to power he brought them in. He allowed them to establish five bases. Do you think the Americans can enter Libya by force? They cannot. As I have told you, the confrontation now is an imperialist confrontation. Do not pay attention to this story about Lockerbie or anything else. Whenever we told them: Let us have the trial in a given place, they said no. Let us agree on this particular place; they said no. So the story is not about trying the suspects, not at all. The story is about looking for the impossible in order to find an excuse to colonize the Arab homeland.

They said: Look at Egypt, see what is happening there. Look at Algeria, see what is happening. See what is happening in Somalia and in Iraq. It will soon be the turn of Libya and Syria. [chants] We should be very cautious, starting from the family. We should take care of ourselves. This is not a confrontation between two armies, it is a confrontation between nations. The Arab nation is confronting other nations which would like to attack it and usurp its freedom and right, and take away its livelihood and the livelihood of its children. They want to take the wealth in our land from us. They want to take the livelihood of our children and grandchildren, and they want to deprive us of it. This is sheer injustice. This is why we are fighting. We are fighting injustice, tyranny, and arrogance. We cannot haggle over such an issue. This is a fateful issue indeed. It is an issue of confrontation, of steadfastness in this confrontation, of determination in this confrontation, of a resolve to defeat the enemy.

This is a fateful issue, brothers. This is a fateful issue which concerns our life and our future. We cannot be lax about it at all. We are not looking for leading roles, parades, or stands; nor are we looking for (?evil). No, there are people who want to come and take the livelihood of our children. It is very clear. They also want to enslave us. Who would accept this? This is legitimate resistance, and they must understand that we understand the seriousness of their confrontation with us and what their objective is. Consequently, our knowledge of this truth will encourage us to sacrifice ourselves in the defense of our country until we defeat them. Their defeat will be certain because we know what will happen if they beat us. [applause]

Life has started to flourish in Libya. We have started to change and to learn. Libya after the revolution, by the testimony of the United Nations, is the first country in the Third World which has reached the top in higher education. This is after the revolution. [passage omitted] In a few years' time our sons will progress and learn technology and how to carry out the dissalination of sea water and how to achieve industrial production. At the same time we continue with the revolutionary incursions and sciences. These are not a problem, these are the facts that testify Libya has set a record with regard to higher education. It should do the same with regard to technical and intermediate education, which were approved by the poeople's congresses. We will become an industrial force; this is a fact. They do not want this.

This is the real Lockerbie. Lockerbie means that the great man-made river shall not reach us; Lockerbie means that water should not come to us from the desert. Lockerbie means that these people should not learn. Lockerbie means that we should not become strong. Lockerbie means that these people should not control their oil. They want Libya to get the oil and give it to them as it is. They want to get it in the raw form to refine it and manufacture its by-products, and give us alms in return. [passage omitted]

They do not want us to progress and therefore they feel they should create something—the al-Rabitah plant, or the Lockerbie incident, or the Gulf of Sidra, in order to halt this program. In actual fact they saw 'Abd al-Nasir creating an industrual state in Egypt and they conspired against Egypt. They saw Iraq establishing an industry and therefore they conspired against it. Now they are conspiring against Libya. The issue is very clear. No matter what resolutions may be adopted by the Security Council, our determination will be stronger because we understand this story fully. The Security Council resolutions do not make nations come to an end; invasion does not make nations come to an end. Terrorism does not make nations come to an end. Not at all. [passage omitted]

Their attempts will fail. Ultimately victory is not in doubt for us. The one who will be sorry is the person who believes that the day of judgment has come when the first American missile strikes, and he raises the white flag. [passage omitted] These days, by God, are glorious and great days.

The Libyans are the ones who deserve life on this earth. [applause] We, brothers, are the ones who deserve to live under the sun and on earth because we are living glorious days, and confront tyranny and defiance by defiance. We will not submit. We will not surrender. We will not compromise. We, and not the cowards and the submissives, deserve to live. The struggle continues!! [chants]

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses People of Tajura'

LD1411184093 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the people of Tajura' on 14 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God. O sons of Tajura' the combatant, Tajura' which made history and led to the foundation of Tripoli [crowd chants], I thank you for this welcome which emanates from the heart and which reflects, at this very moment, an extremely very high morale among the sons of Tajura', the sons of the eternal city of Tripoli. This great welcome by the masses reflects an unyielding resolve to remain defiant. Europe, America, and the entire West know Tajura' very well; they know this is the place where their invading ships will be wrecked and where their invading soldiers will be made prisoner.

O sons of combatant Tajura', your voice is more powerful than the voice of the colonialist superpowers. The voice of the masses is more powerful than the sound of the destroyers and the aircraft carriers and is more powerful than the voice of the colonialist radio stations. O sons of Tajura', express your defiance at the top of your voices. This is the time to be defiant, the time to be determined to win, and the time to defend dignity, the future, history, and honor. The decision is not made in New York; the historic decision is in Tajura' here. It is not made by the Security Council, but by these roaring masses who are determined to ensure their survival with their very blood and lives, as they ensured their survival in the past with their blood, their lives, and columns of their dearest sons.

Let the world know that the real decision which changes history is not the decision of the United Nations, nor the spurious decision by the Security Council in New York, nor is it the decision by the White House. The decision which makes history is the decision by the masses here in Tajura' and in Tripoli. They will see how this decision will change history and how it will solve the problem.

The decision rests with these masses, who have demonstrated high morale and a defiant mood; it does not rest with the Security Council. Let the masses of the Arab nation, from the Atlantic to the Gulf, listen to this resounding voice at a time when the crawlers are crawling and when some are giving up and others are capitulating. Let the Arab nation listen to the voice of the Libyan people who have no fear, and who do not give up or capitulate. These are not just words; history will testify that on this land and under these palm trees enemy armies were defeated, America's troops were made prisoner, and the ship Philadephia, which was America's pride, was damaged and wrecked [in the 19th century].

History is repeating itself. They believe that oil has corrupted Tajura', Tripoli, and Libya, but we tell them: We will show you now that this oil cannot possibly corrupt this people. Just as they were in 1911, in 1800, in 1803, and in 1805, the Libyan people are now, in 1993, the same courageous people who did not leave their land; and they are the people who, by their resistance, defeated the armies of America, the armies of Rome, and the armies of Italy.

The peoples of the Arab nation urgently need to hear your voice, O sons of Tajura', at this time when the rulers who have capitulated, the traitors of the Arab nation, are competing with one another to forsake the future of the Arab nation and its generations to come. The treacherous rulers of the Arab nation do not have the right to sell the future of these generations. They do not have the right to trade the future of the nation. They are entitled to trade their honor, their wives, their daughters, their heads, their crowns, and their scepters. They are entitled to crawl as they wish, along with their wives and families, but they are not entitled to trade the cause of Arab nationalism, the Arab nation, and the honor of the Arab nation.

O sons of Tajura', raise your voices. This nation [crowd chants] is now living in the desperation which the treacherous rulers are trying to impose upon it. Raise your voices to boost the morale of the nation which is being humiliated, the nation which is being blockaded and whose future is being sold at a cattle market [suq al-nikhasah]. The treacherous among the Arab rulers are trading your future, O sons of the Arab nation.

We announce here that we will not haggle over the honor and future of the nation, nor will we offer them for sale or trade them. We announce here that we are ready, with millions upon millions of people, for resistance, for battle, and for a fight. We are also ready to write the document of liberation with our blood; not just the liberation of Libya but the liberation of the Arab nation, from the Atlantic to the Gulf. Let the Arab nation hear the voice of the free Libyan people, the voice of the Libyan people who govern themselves. Let them hear the voice of the people's congresses, the people's committees, and the revolutionary committees. Let the Arab nation also hear the voice of the sovereign people, the free people who stand on the frontline on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. This place is the camp. This place is the first line of confrontation. This is where we will oppose the enemy. This is the place of the great camp, the historic camp. So let us all be at our posts. Let us all offer resistance. Let us take up positions on this frontline. After this line, there is no other line for the fight. Here we will either die or live free. Here the armies of colonialism will be smashed, should they ever come. Here we are, waiting for them. The fish will also destroy them. [crowd chants]

Crowds Call For Withdrawal From UN

LD1411134493 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] As they received the brother leader [al-Qadhdhafi] of the revolution, the roaring masses of Tajura' replied in the strongest terms to the blockade and the decision of the colonialist states to step up the coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah. As they surrounded the leader and came near him, they shouted at the top of their voices, telling the world that they are stronger than the blockade and that the threats of the western crusaders do not frighten them and would not make them submit or capitulate, but would only make them more steadfast in facing the enemies who wish the Arab nation and its dynamic resounding voice, the Great Jamahiriyah, every misfortune.

The masses demanded that the Jamahiriyah should withdraw from the United Nations now that the UN has become a tool in the hands of the western states, which hate the Arabs and Islam. They also called for the closure of Libyan markets to western products, no more contracts with western companies and governments, and the cancellation of existing contracts with them.

The roaring masses also demanded a halt to the pumping and sale of oil and the restriction of Libyan wealth to Libyans alone.

Basic People's Congresses Protest UN Resolution

LD1311230393 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The masses of the Basic People's Congresses staged sit-ins early this morning in Ras Jdir [on the Libyan-Tunisian border] in protest of the false resolution imposed by the three Western countries at the UN Security Council.

The masses carried the pictures of the brother leader of the revolution, the green flag, and slogans condemning these measures, and declared their firm rejection of the policy of threats practiced by the colonialist countries against the Great Jamahiriyah.

A number of speeches were delivered during this mass rally. They all stressed the firm rejection of the increased coercive measures against the Great Jamahiriyah by the three Western countries.

The masses announced their attachment to their people's authority and readiness to defend the Great al-Fatih revolution and its leader. They also stressed their readiness to carry out the death order [sacrifice] to defend the Great Jamahiriyah.

Whatever the number of unjust and tyrannical resolutions, this will never deter us from persevering in the implementation of the aims and principles of unity and liberation of the Great al-Fatih revolution. The masses called upon the Arab nation to stand as one against its enemies and not to give them [the enemies] facilities in ports and airports.

The masses of the Basic People's Congresses staging sit-ins today in Ras Jdir and Musa'id sent a cable to the brother leader of the revolution. [passage omitted]

The masses of the Basic People's Congresses called upon all the Arab countries, the people's bodies and organizations, and justice and peace-loving peoples to reject the stepping up of the unjust coercive measures against the Great Jamahiriyah as stipulated by the three colonialist countries. They stressed that these measures were aimed at its pan-Arab role and its support for the liberation causes all over the world.

Borders With Egypt, Tunisia Reportedly Closed in Protest

NC1311145793 Paris AFP in English 1422 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] al-Sallum, Egypt, Nov 13 (AFP)—Libya has decided to close its land borders with Egypt and Tunisia for three days, starting from midnight (2200 GMT) Saturday [13 November], Egyptian officials said here.

The officials said they were informed of the decision by the Libyan authorities.

The borders were being closed in protest at stiff new U.N. sanctions against Libya.

Meanwhile travellers from Libya arriving in al-Sallum, near the border, said thousands of Libyans had started gathering on the country's borders, notably at Musa'id, to demonstrate against the sanctions.

The demonstrators chanted slogans denouncing "U.S. imperialism" and "western colonialism."

U.N. Security Council Resolution 883 adopted on Thursday embargoes equipment used in the oil industry and freezes Libyan financial assets abroad. The new sanctions are due to take effect on December 1.

They come on top of an international air and arms embargo imposed on Libya since April 1992.

The sanctions are aimed at forcing Tripoli to hand over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over the Scottish village of Lockerbie, that cost 270 lives.

The Libyan authorities took a similar decision to close their borders on January 9.

Foreign Ministry Denies Closure of Borders

LD1411000493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has denied plans to close its land borders with Egypt and Tunisia for three days in protest of the UN Security Council's resolution on extending sanctions against Libya. A spokesman for

the Libyan Foreign Ministry said that the report was unfounded. Meanwhile, he confirmed that demonstrations were staged in protest of the UN sanctions.

Envoy Says UN Resolution Affects 'Millions' of Arabs

NC1411182693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has stated that Security Council Resolution 833 stepping up sanctions against Libya, passed under pressure from imperialist countries, will have negative effects on millions of Arab citizens working and living in Libya. In a statement today, he said that foremost among these affected people will be Palestinians who will leave for Gaza and Jericho. He added that this resolution inflicts slow death on one of the Arab nation's peoples.

Defense Lawyer Reaffirms Opposition to U.S., Scottish Trial

LD1311153993 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Harth [November] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Alistair Duff, the defence lawyer of two suspects in the Lockerbie issue, asserted that the U.N Security Council resolution tighetening the measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah will not change anything in the decision of his clients not to stand trial in the USA or Scotland.

In a statement to JANA's correspondent in London, the lawyer expressed his believe that if the Jamahiriyah tried to force his clients to go to Scotland or the USA they will prevent that through the Libyan courts. He pointed out that Libya had made clear that she will not force the two men to go to either of the two countries.

He added that he will defend the two suspects if the venue of the trial was changed from Britain or the USA.

Commenting on the Security Council resolution increasing the coercive measurs imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah, the lawyer stressed that 'the international community put itself in a silly position thanks to Britain and the USA.'

Spy Reportedly Provided False Information on Lockerbie

LD1411182893 Tripoli JANA in English 1741 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Rome, Al-Harth [November] 14, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY— The Italian newspaper yesterday revealed that the false information provided by a spy who fled Libya to the American intelligence service was the basis on which the international arrest warrant was issued against the two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie incident. The spy gave himlself up to the American intelligence service and supplied them with false information after they promised him a reward of one million dollars.

Opposition Calls For Creation of 'Legitimate' Government

LD1211201293 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] The spokesman of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya made a declaration to RFI's Arabic service today. Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Aziz called for the creation of a legitimate Libyan Government in the aftermath of the tightening of the UN embargo. He believes that only the departure of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi can open the way to a solution of the Libyan crisis over Lockerbie. If the solution of this crisis means that the two Libyan suspects be handed over to the British and American authorities, then so be it if evidence exists against them. 'Abd-al-Aziz believes that the two suspects followed the instructions of their superiors, and of al-Qadhdhafi himself.

Misratah Base Commander, Minister Refute Reports of Mutiny

NC1311113293 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 10 Nov 93 pp 7-8

[Excerpts] Libyan revolution leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Sidi Barrani [in Egypt] and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak did not surprise those who follow Egyptian-Libyan relations and developments in the Lockerbie crisis, especially since Lockerbie was one of the important issues President Mubarak discussed during his visits to Washington and Paris.

This report tries to get closer to Libya's position on Lockerbie following the recent complications in the crisis represented by the defense's refusal to have the suspects tried in the United States or Britain. [passage omitted]

We would like to pause at two important points that have recently been at the center of developments:

First, the recent extensive media campaigns against Libya and the ongoing talk about a coup or mutiny in the army.

Second, the worsening of the Lockerbie crisis after signs of a breakthrough in October. The door is now open for further sanctions against Libya, this time affecting the country's assets abroad and oil production.

Let us begin with the alleged mutiny in Misratah base, as reported by Western media. AKHIR SA'AH visited the base and met its commander, who is also the commander of the air academy at the base. He categorically denied all the reports about a mutiny and about his planes quelling it. He said: "We were surprised by the reports. I am the commander of the base that was said to have crushed the mutiny. We carried out no operations except

routine training. Our air sorties were no more than usual and they were routine flights conducted in accordance with an unchanged training plan."

Asked why Misratah and its base were chosen as the scene of the alleged mutiny, the base commander said: Maybe because Misratah is located midway between east and west. It is a vital region. Revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was in Misratah for several days when Western media claimed that a mutiny took place.

The commander stressed that officers and soldiers receive their salaries regularly and on time. He denied that salaries have not been distributed for six months. Commenting on reports that he put down an attempt by Libyan troops to advance toward Misratah from the Chadian-Libyan border to help the mutiny, the commander, who preferred anonymity, smilingly said that the reports are ridiculous. It is inconceivable for troops to advance over 1,500 km or indeed 2,000 km to stage a coup, he maintained.

The 200-km road between Tripoli and Misratah was calm. Things were proceeding normally, except for a few roadblocks to check vehicle papers. One official told me this has nothing to do with allegations of tension in Misratah. He said: "It is a routine inspection of vehicles and passengers to capture thieves and common criminals who recently came to Libya from some African countries." If Libya were frightened of something, he explained, it would not leave its border open and intensify its inspection campaign inside the country; it would be easier to close the border.

Jum'ah al-Fazzani, Libyan secretary of unity, gives a political explanation to the campaign. He told AKHIR SA'AH:

We are accustomed to such campaigns when there is a Western attempt to pass a new Security Council resolution. They spoke about chemical weapons and about the al-Rabitah factory. We told President Mubarak to let the United States send who it wished to make sure that the factory was not involved in chemical weapons, but only in the production of medicines. Mubarak himself visited the factory. They mentioned Korean involvement in producing chemical weapons and in an agreement to store them, although the whole issue relates to agreements to dig tunnels for the great manmade river and for training Libyans to take over in the future.

Recently, al-Fazzani added, they began to bet on our national unity by fabricating lies about a mutiny at the Misratah base and about air and missile bombing. This did not happen. Libya does not have an army in the traditional sense of the word. We train cadres in the acts of popular guards; we seek to establish a people's army or armed people. We do not have an army. The authority is in the hands of the people. So, who would stage a coup? Against whom? [passage omitted]

Sudan

Government 'Unreservedly' Condemns Libya Sanctions

EA1411210393 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Nov (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government has unreservedly condemned the resolution adopted by the security council imposing further sanctions on the Libya Arab Jamahiriyah. This was contained in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today. The statement said the Sudanese Government considered the resolution to be precipitate and unjust, as well as obstructive to the sincere efforts exerted towards finding a just and peaceful solution to the Lockerbie issue.

The statement went on to say that, in assenting to the imposition of further sanctions, the Security Council had clearly revealed the insistence of the United States and western states to perpetuate the suffering of the fraternal Libyan people, even to the extent of tightening this stranglehold on them to obtain their submission. The statement said that, ever since the start of the crisis, Sudan had been calling for the issue to be resolved [words indistinct] before jumping to issue judgements and condemnations, thus to serve the interests of justice and equity not only in respect of the victims of the aircraft [as received] but also of the completely beleaguered Libyan people, due to the exploitation of this issue for political motives.

The statement said the crisis brought about by this resolution had already reached a dangerous stage which exacerbated the suffering of the Libyan people. This made it incumbent on world public opinion and western public opinion to resist, confront and reject this iniquity, which has seriously damaged the fundamentals of international justice. The statement stressed that Sudan, out of its commitment to a common destiny, declares its total solidarity with the Libyan people in confronting this outrageous resolution, while lauding the Libyan people's steadfastness in the face of provocation—and for the sacrifices they were making to uphold their honor, glory, sovereignty and independent decision making powers.

Foreign Minister Expresses 'Regret'

EA1411204193 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1738 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Nov (SUNA)—Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the foreign minister, has expressed regret at the blockade imposed on the Libyan people as a result of the obduracy of the United Nations. His excellency said that this [words indistinct] (?should not have) dealt with the matter in such a manner, saying this in relation to the most recent resolutions adopted by the security council against Libya, particularly in the context of Libya's recognition of the need to arrive at the truth by way of a just trial of the two accused in the Lockerbie case.

Meanwhile, he briefed Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the republic, on progress at the Foreign Ministry. This occurred when the latter met Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih here today and discussed regional and international issues of concern to Sudan.

Al-Bashir Criticizes Sanctions

EA1411203093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1742 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Nov (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the republic, today [13 November] received a verbal message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution. Conveyed to him by Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Committee for [Arab] Unity in the jamahiriyah [words indistinct] Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir castigated the exploitation of international organizations by certain great powers to impose blockades on peoples. He reiterated Sudan's support for the Libyan jamahiriyah and its condemnation of the security council's outrageous resolutions against the Libyan people.

Al-Fazzani said Col. al-Qadhdhafi's message had been sent in the context of the continuous consultations between the leaderships of the two revolutions on bilateral relations and Arab, African and international affairs with a view to assessing developments, particularly as the two countries acted from jointly-held standpoints on ways of rectifying what was troubling the Arab homeland [as received] in terms of attenuation and instability and as the result of the new attack on innocent [words indistinct].

Al-Fazzani stressed the Libyan people's rejection of the outrageous resolutions which were trying to starve and force into submission free and sovereign peoples. He said some western states were extending their hegemony through the security council in pursuit of colonialist objectives against the Libyan people, indifferent to the standpoints of the organizations supportive of the jamahiriyah, such as the OAU, the ICO, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Arab League in spite of the fact that these organizations represented 80 percent of the world, thus showing that the western states held all these peoples in contempt.

Al-Fazzani denied what was being rumored to the effect that Sudanese-Libyan relations were slackening, stressing that such rumors were aimed at bringing about the isolation of the National Salvation Revolution from the Libyan revolution. He described the relations between the two countries as deep and well-founded with all the intrinsic factors needed to ensure their perpetuation. That was because the relations were based on a single revolutionary outlook seeking to ensure the liberation of the peoples and that they exercised their will to the limit of their capabilities. Both revolutions were trying to create a new system of civilization characterized by the freedom of the individual and his sovereignty, one who exercised that sovereignty directly within a direct [as received] democracy. He went on to say that Libya would engage a political and diplomatic campaign to expose the imperialist attack against it.

Students Protest Khartoum University Election Results

Islamic Front Accused of Rigging

PM1211122193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Nov 93 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Khartoum University: Islamic Front Accused of Rigging Elections"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum, AL-HAYAH—There was tension at Khartoum University yesterday after some independent students as well as supporters of banned parties staged a sit-in strike at the office of the dean of the university and a massive demonstration which marched through the university roads.

The protesting students accused students of the Islamic Front [NIF] led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi of rigging the results of the university students union elections which began a week ago and ended yesterday. The election committee refused to sign the final results after ascertaining that some voting cards were forged. [passage omitted]

Tension at the university remained high until late last night. The final results were not available but a university source said that the NIF list won all the union seats (40 seats). [passage omitted]

Clashes Reported

PM1511094093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Nov 93 p1

[Unattributed report: "Forty Wounded in Khartoum University Clashes"]

[Text] London, Khartoum, AL-HAYAH—Sudanese security forces yesterday used tear gas bombs to disperse Khartoum University students who retaliated by throwing stones at them. About 40 students were wounded in clashes between the two sides.

The students were demonstrating against the announcement of the victory of the pro-regime Islamic list in the students union elections over independent and partisan candidates.

The students detained professor Ma'mum Humaydah, the university dean, and his office staff at 1400 hours. The security forces could not set them free before 2000 hours.

Meanwhile, Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir has warned that foreign quarters intend to invade his country. He stressed that "pressures and plots will only increase our determination to carry out our Islamic program."

Al-Bashir did not specify who was planning to invade the country but, in a speech to a workers delegation carried on Sudanese television, he said that "there is a new plot to invade Sudan. Foreign circles opposed to Sudan's Islamic trend are behind it."

Board Members Under 'Siege'

NC1211131993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 12 Nov (MENA)—Khartoum University yesterday was the scene of the worst student demonstrations since 1991. The students of the various colleges staged these demonstrations to protest the outcome of the elections in which the Islamists won all 40 seats of the university's Student Union Council.

The students gathered inside the university and smashed windows, doors, and telephones; cut telephone and electrical lines; staged a siege on the board members, including the university's president; and pelted policemen and the university's guards with stones.

A number of students disclosed to the MENA correspondent in Khartoum that the university's board, in cooperation with the government departments, brought four busloads of southern students and nonstudents who have no connection with the university and allowed them to cast their votes. The students added that the election results in 19 election centers were rigged in favor of the Islamist students.

Three student lists competed in Khartoum University's Student Union Council elections. They are the National Islamists list, the Muslim Brotherhood list, and the neutral list, which included communists, Ba'thists, Nasirites, the Independent Student Congress, the African National Front, and the Ummah Party.

The National Islamist Students list won the largest number of votes and all the seats. They were followed by the neutral list and the Muslim Brotherhood list respectively.

Khartoum University suspended the Student Union Council in 1991 following riots and disturbances at the university. [passage omitted]

Election To Be Investigated

AB1311224093 Paris AFP in French 2150 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Nov (AFP)—The vice chancellor of Khartoum University, Mr. Mamoun Mohamed Ali Houmaida, today asked Islamic students who won the 40 seats of the Students Council Union not to carry out any activity, pending the outcome of an inquiry over accusations of fraud levelled by students from other groups.

In a statement, the vice chancellor criticized recent "acts of sabotage" by supporters of the other groups, stressing that these acts would not lead to the suspension of lectures.

The vice chancellor's statement said that the complainants besieged his office and "sequestrated him and other lecturers." According to the statement, the students also cut telephone and power lines in his office.

Protests began following government measures to withdraw students' rights to free board and lodging. The protests continued during the student election, which opposed an Islamic group encouraged by the National Islamic Front, as well as another group described as "neutral," which includes the Communists, the Nasserists, and the Muslim Brothers. (About 300 students were arrested following these protests, according to diplomatic sources in Cairo).

Police Arrest Students

AB1411104893 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 14 (AFP)—Police arrested 17 students and used teargas to disperse a demonstration protesting alleged election fraud at the University of Khartoum, a government daily reported on Sunday [14 November].

El Engaz El Watani quoted the university's vice chancellor Professor Mamoun Mohamed Homaida as saying police did not use firearms to break-up the demonstration and that the only casualties were five girls who fainted. They were taken to hospital and discharged after receiving medical treatment.

The vice chancellor said he had proof that the demonstration, which took place on Wednesday on the university's main campus, had been instigated from outside the university and outside Sudan. He said he was held hostage together with other university adminstrators in offices which had electricity and telephones cut off.

The protesting students who call themselves the independents went on the rampage after the results of the elections to the students' union were announced. They claimed the votes were rigged by the Islamists who won all 40 seats at stake.

The vice chancellor has asked the Islamists not to get involved in any union activity until allegations have been investigated. He has asked colleges that have finished their exams to go on vacation but he has stressed that the university will not close under any circumstances.

Last year the university's student union was abolished because of the violent rivalry between the Islamic group and the independents.

Vice Chancellor Issues Statement

EA1411204693 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The University of Khartoum vice-chancellor has said no consideration would be paid towards student demonstrations and illegal (?pressures). In a statement issued on the events which took place at the university

campus last week, Professor Ma'mun Shamil expressed refusal under any circumstances to any bargaining as regards the university's stability. He touched on the strange practices by the protesting students, who occupied the vice-chancellor's office and arrested him with other university officials, cutting off electricity, water and (?food) contacts with them. He pointed out that the quick escalation was aiming at the eruption of fighting between the students themselves and between the students and the university administration. Study and examination procedures are going on as normal, the statement concluded.

Government Plane Bombs Southern Town

AB1311212593 Paris AFP in English 1735 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Nairobi, Nov 13 (AFP) - A Sudanese Government plane bombed the southern town of Thiet on Friday [12 November], forcing expatriate relief workers in the town to fly to Lokichoggio in northwest Kenya, an aid group said here Saturday.

World Vision International said in a statement that the expatriate workers, who were unharmed, will remain in Lokichoggio until the situation was more clear.

A Soviet-made Antonov cargo plane passed twice over Thiet, dropping 11 bombs that landed about 300 metres (yards) from the town's airstrip, the statement said.

The statement quoted World Vision's site coordinator in Thiet as saying that before the bombing, a number of MIG fighter aircrafts had overflown the town at high altitude.

The attack came just 15 minutes after a C-46 cargo plane chartered by World Vision left Thiet after delivering 6.5 tonnes of sorghum, the statement added.

It was not immediately clear whether there were casualties from the attack.

Yemen

Political Motive Seen in Attack on U.S. Diplomat

JN1411213493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The U.S. deputy information attache in Sanna has been beaten up by an armed Yemeni group that ambushed him on the highway between Sanaa and the Governorate of Ta'izz in an area 25 km from the capital.

The Yemeni newspaper AL-MUSTAQBAL, of the Yemeni Socialist Party, issued in Aden today, says: The U.S. diplomat was beaten up by the group, which took control of his car. The U.S. diplomat was heading for the Governorate of Ibb in central Yemen last Thursday [11 November] when he was beaten up.

The newspaper cited informed Yemeni sources as saying that the incident came as a reaction from some Yemeni parties, which were dissatisfied with the contents of the statement the U.S. State Department issued last week on the Yemeni situation.

This is considered the first incident against a U.S. diplomat in Sanaa.

House Continues Debate on 'Current Crisis'

JN1411145893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, in a session chaired by House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House debated the work of the fact-finding and follow-up committee tasked with addressing the current crisis. The minutes of yesterday's committee meeting affirmed that it is important for the permanent committees of the House to act on the Council of Ministers' decisions enshrined in the statement issued on 5 November 1993 on the current crisis. This follow-up work, the minutes reported, must be accomplished on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, 14-16 November. The aforementioned minutes also contained a summary of work by the subcommittee tasked with making field visits to al- Ghaydah and Abyan Governorates. This summary showed that officials in the concerned parties demonstrated cooperation, as well as a willingness to remove military checkpoints and temporary positions.

Remarks by the people's representatives affirmed the need for the fact-finding and follow-up committee to carry out the tasks of the second phase of its work schedule in order to identify the real causes of the crisis, reach a clear perspective regarding the drastic solutions to be implemented, and propose sound remedial action to defuse the crisis. These remarks affirmed the need for the House to continue to perform its constitutional and legislative tasks, and to continue with efforts begun during the crisis to ensure the security of the homeland, consecrate [words indistinct], security, and stability, improve the living conditions of people throughout the Republic, and consolidate the foundations of unity in the country.

The House of Representatives will hold a session at 0900 on Wednesday, 17 November 1993, in the presence of the prime minister and cabinet ministers. Meanwhile, the follow-up and fact-finding committee tasked with finding the facts pertaining to the crisis will continue its work. Also, the permanent House committees will continue to perform their tasks and duties regarding the crisis and other issues.

Cabinet Issues Statement on Political Crisis

JN1211212293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Nov 93

["Text" of statement issued by the Yemeni Council of Ministers at the end of its meetings in Aden, "the economic and trade capital of Aden" on 12 November—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretched out for you, and not be divided among yourselves. [Koranic verse]

During its meetings held in the city of Aden on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 26, 27, and 28 Jumada al-Awwal 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 10, 11, and 12 November 1993, the Council of Ministers discussed the current political crisis in the homeland. The council also reviewed the developments and various stands as well as the media vituperations and security tensions that accompanied these developments and contributed to escalating the crisis.

Following a profound, serious, and frank discussion; in light of the difficult situation facing Yemen; out of its awareness of its responsibilities toward the people and the homeland; out of its commitment to the higher national interests—particularly safeguarding unity, democracy, political and party pluralism, respecting human rights, safeguarding public and individual liberties, renouncing violence and terrorism, entrenching safety and stability—out of its adherence to dialogue as the only way to resolve the current political crisis; out of its desire to prepare an appropriate atmosphere to bypass the crisis and entrench national reconciliation on sound and strong bases that reinforce confidence among the parties to the ruling coalition on one hand and between the government authorities and the citizens on the other; out of its awareness that the continuation of this situation will exacerbate the citizens' suffering and will have negative effects on the performance of the government institutions and organs; to curb any repercussions; and in order to provide an appropriate climate to resume serious and objective dialogue that aims at resolving the crisis, deepening confidence, safeguarding national unity, strengthening democracy practices, and completing the building of the modern state, the state of law and order; the Council of Ministers has decided the following:

First: To form a committee under the chairmanship of the prime minister and in which the deputies prime

minister are members, to follow up the developments in the current political crisis, to work toward ending all its effects and manifestations, to follow up the implementation of the Cabinet's decisions in order to prepare the appropriate circumstances and climate to resume the dialogue among the parties to the coalition so as to reach an agreement that will reinforce the march of unity, democracy, and building the institutions of the state of unity, the state of law and order. This committee shall brief the Council of Ministers on what is being achieved.

Second: To ask the brother information minister to prevent the official media from publishing or broadcasting any speeches, statements, or interviews. The brother information minister shall present, within one month, a media policy to the council in order to be discussed and endorsed. The council appeals to the party and private press to be objective and not to publish anything that would obstruct the ongoing efforts to provide the appropriate circumstances and climate that will resolve the existing political crisis.

Third: To ask the interior minister and the deputy chief of the Central Apparatus for Political Security to continue the investigation with the defendants in the assassination cases, to send them to court, to pursue the suspects, including those whose names were announced by the security organs and those who escaped from prison, to interrogate them, to send them to court, and to submit a report to the council every two weeks.

Fourth: To ask the brother defense minister to form a committee to remove the military checkpoints and makeshift posts and return the military units with their arms to their positions before the crisis, as well as to halt any new reinforcements and return the situation to what it was before the crisis. The committee will also submit a report to the Council of Ministers within two weeks.

Fifth: To ask the brother interior minister and defense minister, in light of their responsibility and capacity, to handle the question of security and military checkpoints, and to remove them, since there is no justification for them, provided personnel and officers of the security agencies and Armed Forces will supervise whatever checkpoints that are to remain for security reasons. These checkpoints should be under the direct supervision of the Interior Ministry, and the Council of Ministers should be informed of any new developments at once.

Sixth: To ask the brother interior minister to reinforce security forces to face the rabid campaigns of highwaymen and car thieves and smugglers. Also, joint military campaigns from the Army and the security agencies should be conducted to storm the hideouts of these gangs and arrest them in order to put them on trial.

Seventh: Government agencies need to show a spirit of discipline, pay attention to resolving issues presented by citizens, upgrade their performance, and seek to uproot negative phenomena and corruption.

While expressing its appreciation for the statement of the House of Representatives and declaring its willingness to implement the House's directives that have to do with the government, the Council of Ministers reiterates its willingness to cooperate with the House of Representatives to create suitable circumstances to pursue constructive dialogue among the parties of the coalition to reach a solution to the current political crisis.

The Council of Ministers has no doubt at all that the Yemeni leadership, in light of its responsibility, realizes the importance of having wisdom to contain and overcome this crisis and to continue to shoulder its historic responsibilities with efficiency and capability.

The Council of Ministers also calls on all the sons of the people to adhere to unity and democracy, preserve national sovereignty, and beware tendentious rumors and propaganda that are designed to split the ranks, create conflicts, and sow dissension and sedition. The Council of Ministers also appeals to citizens to cooperate with the security agencies to apprehend all criminals. The Council of Ministers considers everyone who shelters a suspect or wanted person a violator of the law. The security and judicial agencies shall adopt the appropriate measures against these people.

God testifies to the good faith of the Council of Ministers. God is the best lord and best supporter.

Issued by the Council of Ministers in Aden on Friday 28 Jumada al-Awwal 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 12 November 1993.

YSP Official on Crisis, Security, Terrorism

JN1111163993 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Nov 93 p 13

[Interview with Sayf Sa'id, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party, YSP, by Riyad Mansur in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Mansur] What do you think of the attempt on the life of the YSP secretary general's two sons and what are the dimensions of this attempt? Does it reflect a qualitative development in the terrorist acts that have been targeting the YSP leaders and their families since the establishment of Yemeni unity?

[Sa'id] Certainly, this painful and sorrowful incident is a serious one. It is a link in a chain of terrorist acts that have taken place after unity was achieved. These terrorist acts primarily targeted YSP members and some other nationalist forces.

The serious dimension of this act is that it directly targeted the sons of the vice president and our party's secretary general, who has a special situation in terms of his official position as the vice president, in terms of his party position as the YSP secretary general, and in terms

of his capacity as a prominent political leader in the history of the national and social struggle of the Yemeni people.

Besides, the attack came at time of near political crisis in Yemen, if not a real crisis, as a result of the recent circumstances, incidents, and difficulties. Therefore, the timing of the attack is, in itself, a kind of escalation that we believe is aimed at preventing a political solution to the current crisis. Such a solution must offer realistic answers that ensure the continued democratic unity in the country. However, the escalation of terrorism is tantamount to conspiracy against the possibility of finding a peaceful solution to this crisis.

The objective of this attack, it seems to me, is to signal the beginning of a cycle of violence and mutual assassinations that could lead to disastrous results for the Yemeni people.

We, in the Political Bureau, have expressed the party's condemnation of this incident and other terrorist acts. We deem it a serious escalation that will lead to very serious consequences. However, I would like to say that, up to this moment, the party still adheres to the policy of self-restraint. We still reaffirm that it is the duty of the legitimate state to put to trial all those involved in cases of assassinations and terrorism, especially since the latest incident was not the first, but one in a long chain of assassinations. I would like to point out the first of the 18 points that the party has proposed for tackling the crisis. The first point calls for exposing those who took part in the assassinations and to give them a fair trial. This is because no security, stability, and tranquility can be achieved with continuing acts of violence and assassinations.

[Mansur] You have said that what is taking place may lead to acts of violence and mutual assassinations, mutual between whom?

[Sa'il] The situation in Yemen is influenced by many elements and factors, including old political vengeance. Before unity was achieved, there were many conflicts, be it between the ruling parties, the opposition parties, between the ruling parties and the opposition parties, or between the two regimes that existed in the north and the south. The effects of those conflicts are still there. Besides, there are also problems related to tribal relations. The slightest incidents may raise all these problems.

There are also suspicions concerning the identity of the parties involved in the acts of violence. Undoubtedly, these forces are creating difficult options, not for their rivals only, but also for them. This is because violence leads to violence.

Therefore, as a general rule, we consider acts of violence and terrorism a destructive option that only leads to painful results for the Yemeni people. We do not want to accuse any party. We reaffirmed in our statements that these acts are carried out by parties that hate unity and democracy. As for the identity of these parties, we do not want to talk about them now. We want the state's official security forces to do so.

[Mansur] But it is clear that since the terrorist acts began with an attempt on the life of minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Salam two years ago, and despite the arrest of some elements involved in some terrorist acts, the court procedures were not continued. What is preventing this?

[Sa'il] This is one of the issues emphasized by the YSP in all its statements. It also emphasized this issue in its recent 18- point memorandum. The continuing series of assassinations and the fact that the detainees are not being put on trial will lead to many tragedies. We always ask the concerned official state bodies to perform their official and national duty and to put the perpetrators on trial. We do not want to act as a party. However, if the official bodies, which are constitutionally authorized to follow up this issue, fail, then the party will have its word.

[Mansur] Based on what?

[Sa'il] The YSP will reveal documents it has that deal with this issue.

[Mansur] Does this mean you have documents?

[Sa'il] We have information, but we want the concerned official bodies to announce this information.

[Mansur] Does this information rise to the level of documents and evidences?

[Sa'il] The YSP has documents and evidences that it will announce in time.

[Mansur] What does the president say when you open this subject and express your viewpoint, which demands that justice take its course?

[Sa'il] I hope you will address this question to the president.

[Mansur] The president says that justice will take its course while you say that justice is not taking its course. I wish to know what is the president's response to you as a partner in the government?

[Sa'il] In his public and official statements, the president stresses the need for justice to take its course. However, we need practical steps.

[Mansur] But when practical measures are not taken, when attacks continue with such boldness, and when acts of this sort are committed in Aden—the security of which is still controlled by the YSP—then does this means that the assassinations and terrorist acts have their strong supporters in order to achieve goals that go beyond tactical aspects to strategic ones?

[Sa'il] We believe that these elements will not dare to carry out acts of this sort unless they are supported. Despite these details, which I do not want to get into, I

believe that these acts are not aimed against the YSP alone but against the Yemeni homeland and against unity and democracy.

[Mansur] The recent operation was carried out in Aden where the security quarter is controlled by the YSP. Why doesn't your security quarter in Aden announce the information it has?

[Sa'il] As for the recent incident, a committee was formed in order to follow up the issue. Once the investigation is completed, the committee will, without a doubt, announce what it has.

[Mansur] Have any arrests been made?

[Sa'il] None thus far; but to my knowledge, a number of suspects have been arrested and cars thought to have been involved in the runup to the shooting have been impounded. But I have no specifics.

[Mansur] Have there been any arrests in connection with the assassination of Prime Minister al-'Attas' brother?

[Sa'il] No.

[Mansur] But you are responsible for security in Hadramawt?

[Sa'il] Not strictly speaking; not in the sense that the southern governorates are under the control of the security authority that had existed in the south. These governorates used to be under the control of the YSP. Generally speaking, security in the south held firm for a long time. However, the security forces are no longer bound to the YSP. There has been a sort of merger between the security forces of the two former systems. To my knowledge, the forces have not revealed anything specific in regard to the prime minister's brother's assassination. There is some information, but it still is in the security forces files.

[Mansur] Your views on the security situation leads one to conclude that security is the responsibility of the former regime in the north. Don't you have a presence in the security apparatus?

[Sa'il] We do have a presence in the security apparatus. It must be admitted, though, that we were two separate entities, one in the south and one in the north. We held office for long durations in the south, and so we were better acquainted with the situation in the southern governorates. Security apparatuses in Aden and Abyan managed to smash a network responsible for acts of violence in these two governorates.

I have no doubt that brother officials have access to more information regarding the northern governorates. The brother officials who have lived in the north are more knowledgeable about its affairs, and the same holds true for us in the south. This is not to say that we will be free of some confusion in the union, but in the end there will be an integrated form of government. In the event of acts of violence taking place in the south, these will be handled by personnel who were in charge of security there, since they are better acquainted with things in the southern governorates.

[Mansur] I assume that when a particular incident takes place and suspects are apprehended, they are automatically turned over to judicial authorities. Why did security authorities in Aden and Abyan [not] turn over Tariq al-Fadli, and others arrested with him in connection with the explosions in Aden, to public prosecution and then to the courts of law?

[Sa'il] We are asking the following question ourselves: Why don't the security forces fulfill their duties?

[Mansur] But in Abyan and Aden, the security organs are your erstwhile apparatuses as a socialist party?

[Sa'il] The security forces in Abyan caught some members of the network. As for Tariq al-Fadli, he has been turned over for interrogation by the judicial authorities.

[Mansur] He is said to have been freed?

[Sa'il] Not exactly; but more measures are needed.

[Mansur] What about the other members of the network?

[Sa'il] Some are still in prison and some others have escaped from prison.

[Mansur] Which prison?

[Sa'il] Only the security forces have details.

[Mansur] Why don't you try those who are still in prison?

[Sa'il] As soon as investigations are finished, they will be put to trial. In fact, measures to put them on trial are under way. By the way, the official in charge of security in Abyan is one of our brothers who worked in the north. I would like to say that not all the security officials in the south belong to the YSP. The same applies in the north.

[Mansur] The official in charge of security in Abyan does not have the final say, though, there is the governor?

[Sa'il] The governor is also from the north. We have achieved a partial, but not a total, merger of the authority. It is true that the security forces in the south are influenced by the YSP and that the security forces in the north are influenced by the General People's Congress [GPC]. But this does not mean that no changes have occurred over the past three years of unity.

[Mansur] The secretary general warned through his agencies that if a relapse in the unity occurs, Yemen would not only be divided into two halves but into an unknown number of states. By this, he means the possibility of the return of the sultanates era in southern Yemen. They numbered 22. In light of the Tariq al-Fadli incident in Abyan, could you explain the extent of danger the former sultans pose to Yemen's unity?

[Sa'il] The secretary general does not mean that. He warned that continued assassinations may create problems for Yemen, including the possibility of civil war. This may result in dividing Yemen into many parts because of its social and tribal structure, because of the political vindictiveness it experienced, and because of the internal and external conspiracies against Yemen. Therefore, any relapse in Yemen's unity, may God forbid, may have grave consequences. These, in turn, may lead not only to two Yemens, northern and southern, but to more dangers to the Yemeni people.

Therefore, the YSP and its secretary general stress the need to join all efforts to prevent the expected disaster and to deal with Yemen's issues honestly in order to maintain unity and democracy and to turn over a new leaf for the Yemeni people. This is not the responsibility of the YSP alone but the responsibility of all Yemeni nationalists and all the Yemeni people, who should unite under these difficult circumstances to prevent this disaster.

[Mansur] Since we are still discussing the dangers posed by division, one might draw the conclusion that the fact that YSP Assistant Secretary General Salih Salim Muhammad took the constitutional oath in after his election to the Presidential Council while the YSP secretary general failed to do so is a sign that the YSP position toward the dispute with the GPC is not united. Why is that so?

[Sa'il] That is not true. The YSP position toward the crisis is united. The YSP Political Bureau has proposed 18 points to address the crisis. The YSP leaders and members are united on these points. We believe that demonstrating a responsiveness to these proposals will promote the interests of the Yemeni people, because these proposals call for halting terror, underscore the issue of local government, and highlight the importance of remedying the problems related to the people's livelihood. These proposals also call for ensuring the effective involvement of all Yemenis in a serious endeavor to create propitious circumstances for the continuation of unity, progress, and modernization in Yemen.

These proposals were not submitted by the YSP to promote selfish interests, but rather to promote the interests of all sectors, classes, and political parties of the Yemeni people.

With regard to the issue of taking the constitutional oath, I would like to say that brother Salim Salih Muhammad took the constitutional oath, whereas YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid sent a letter of apology to the House of Representatives. Al-Bid has stated that he is willing to return to Sanaa. However, he is unwilling to take an oath that notes unachievable objectives. Hence, he insists that the situation be addressed on the basis of the 18 points the YSP has proposed, foremost among which is the point concerning the security issue. The attempt on the lives of the two sons of the YSP secretary general confirm the veracity of statements he has made regarding the serious perils posed by the unstable security situation prevailing in the country. Consequently, real steps must be taken by the parties making up the coalition government and other national parties to remedy the situation and forestall a possible catastrophe.

The YSP secretary general is willing to take the constitutional oath. However, he wants political action as well as a strong political will to address the people's problems, which were noted in the 18 points mentioned above. These points have been underscored by opposition parties; and they are acceptable to the GPC. However, we now require a serious handling of affairs. The serious security situation in the country must be properly addressed.

[Mansur] Most of the points you have raised are enshrined in the government's program for political, economic, and administrative reform.

[Sa'il] Right now, we want the implementation of this program. The seriousness of the position toward unity, as well as the seriousness of the national stand of all patriots, including the GPC and the YSP, is now at stake. This seriousness can be demonstrated if practical and real steps are taken without any delay to safeguard the course that we have charted together; namely, the course of unity and democracy.

Saddam Pardons U.S. Prisoner Following Petitions

JN1511125193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has ordered that U.S. prisoner Kenneth Beaty be pardoned and released. This humanitarian decision by the leader president was made in response to a petition by U.S. Senator David Boren, who is currently visiting Iraq and who presented the petition to President Saddam Husayn when he met with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz yesterday evening.

Kenneth Beaty was sentenced to an eight-year term of imprisonment for entering Iraq illegally. He was suffering from heart disease prior to his imprisonment. The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that Boren is a U.S. senator for the State of Oklahoma, the state to which prisoner Beaty belongs. The senator is from the Democratic Party and was against the war George Bush launched against Iraq. The agency also learned that several prominent U.S. personalities had earlier addressed messages to President Saddam Husayn requesting his excellency to pardon the prisoner on humanitarian grounds due to his deteriorating health. These are former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, Texas Governor Mrs. Ann Richards, Oklahoma Governor David Walters, Mohammad Ali Clay, Oklahoma State Deputy Larry Rice, House Majority leader for Oklahoma Lloyd Benson, and 16 members of the House of Representatives representing the State of Texas.

The following are the texts of a number of letters the above personalities addressed to the leader president.

President Saddam Husayn: I am writing to you about a U.S. citizen, Mr. Kenneth Beaty, who was sentenced on the charge of illegal entry into Iraq in April this year. Mr. Beaty was working in northern Kuwait and it is obvious that he lost his way. Therefore, he asked the help of Iraqi soldiers. He was then arrested for entering Iraq illegally. He was sentenced to an eight- year term of imprisonment, which he is now serving. Although I am aware that Mr. Beaty was tried and sentenced according to the Iraqi law, I wish to request his release for humanitarian considerations. Mr. Beaty is suffering from heart disease and his health may further deteriorate in prison. Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Faithfully, Jimmy Carter.

President Saddam Husayn, the Republic of Iraq, Baghdad,

Dear President Saddam Husayn: In my capacity as the governor of Texas, I request your compassionate pardon and release of Kenneth Beaty, a U.S. prisoner and a Texas national.

Beaty has been detained in the Abu Ghurayb prison since 25 April 1993 on charges of illegal entry into Iraq. I was notified that he inadvertently wandered into Iraqi territory while working for an oil company. I am also given to understand that Beaty's health is continuously deteriorating, and that he may require medical care.

I believe that his health condition and being away from his wife and two children deserve that you consider his situation. We are extremely concerned that his lengthy detention may further aggravate his health condition, and that he may eventually pass away.

Your care and personal help to release Beaty are urgently required, and will meet with much appreciation on our part.

[Signed] Sincerely, Ann W. Richards, governor of Texas

His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq.

Your Excellency, to begin with I ask the esteemed president of the Republic of Iraq for pity, mercy, and amnesty for U.S. prisoner Kenneth Beaty. Mr. Beaty, who is a resident of the state of Oklahoma and a member of my constituency, has been imprisoned in Abu Ghurayb prison since 25 April 1993 on a charge of illegal entry. Mr. Beaty, father of two stunned children, inadvertently lost his way inside Iraqi territory while he was working at his job as a junior worker at an oil field. Mr. Beaty's documents indicate that his health situation is deteriorating steadily as a result of a previous heart attack. He needs thorough care and attention by his doctors. I am extremely worried that holding him for a prolonged time will worsen his already deteriorating situation. This may eventually lead to his death.

Releasing Mr. Beaty would end the psychological strain and daily suffering of his wife and two children. It would also enable to see his doctors for the medical care he urgently needs.

Your esteemed presidency's help to resolve this issue will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, David Boren, the Senate.

President Saddam Husayn, through Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's mission to the United Nations, New York.

Dear President Saddam Husayn, on behalf of the U.S. prisoner, Mr. Kenneth Beaty, and his family, I appeal for your mercy to pardon and release him from Abu Ghurayb prison. He has been held since 25 April 1993 on a charge of illegal entry into Iraq. I believe he lost his way when he crossed the Iraqi border while performing his job as a worker at an oil field in Kuwait.

Previously, Mr. Beaty had suffered a heart attack. His health situation is steadily deteriorating and needs close attention. In addition, his wife and two children are in need for his care, love, and presence as a husband and father.

I beseech Your Excellency to see that Mr. Beaty is released, so his family can be reunited.

Sincerely, Larry Rice, state representative, the Eighth District.

His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq.

Dear President Saddam Husayn, we, the undersigned, appeal to you to issue a humanitarian amnesty for Mr. Kenneth Beaty, who has been detained in Abu Ghurayb prison since 25 April 1993 on a charge of illegal entry, having unintentionally lost his way inside Iraq while he was performing his duty as an oil field worker.

Mr. Beaty's health situation is deteriorating and he needs close medical attention by his doctors. We are worried that his continuous detention will worsen the condition of his heart, and may lead to his premature death. The release of Mr. Beaty would end the suffering of his wife and two small children, and enable him to get the medical treatment he needs very urgently. We consider a humanitarian pardon for Mr. Beaty a positive gesture of goodwill on your part. We will greatly appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely, Bill (?Sarpalius), Charlie Stenholm, Pete Geren, Jim Chapman, John (?Bryant), Michael Andrews, H. Edwards, Gene Green, Greg Laughlin, (?Kiki de la Garza), Solomon Ortiz, (?J.J. Pickle), Frank Tejeda, Ronald Coleman, Charles Wilson, Eddie Bernice Johnson.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq. My brother in Islam, may God's peace be upon you. God willing, this letter will reach you while you and your family members are safe and enjoying good health. I would like to thank you for the hospitality you have accorded me and the group which accompanied me during my recent visit to Baghdad. As you know, I arrived in Baghdad on a peaceful and humanitarian mission in an attempt to secure the release of any POW's who might still be in Iraq after the wars with Iran and Kuwait. Praise be to God, I have recently learned that Iraq has begun talks with Iran to determine points of disagreement between them and to reach mutual peaceful solutions to these differences. I pray to God that this information is correct. I dream of the day when all Muslims discard all differences and stand as a united front for the cause of God.

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of Mrs. Kenneth Beaty, who contacted my office when I was in Iraq in July this year. Mrs. Beaty spoke to my wife and she was very upset. She asked for my help. Apparently, her husband, who is an oil field worker, inadvertently entered Iraq when he lost his way while going to a meeting. His name is Kenneth Beaty. He was accused of entering Iraq illegally and was arrested on 25 April 1993. He was sent to Abu Ghurayb prison. I have learned that Mr. Beaty is suffering from heart disease, that his health is deteriorating, and that he has two small children who are shocked by what has happened to their father. As a Muslim, and knowing that you are a man who knows better than others the suffering of orphaned children, I kindly ask you to provide them with the sympathy the prophet, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, could have provided them with in such a case.

If what I have learned is true, then this man did not cause harm to anyone. He simply lost his way. Muslims must be an example for all mankind. We must be the first to call for freedom and justice. We also must be the first to show mercy toward other people. My heart, my intimate friend, is full of pain. I know you are a merciful man. In the name of God, I ask you to be merciful to Mr. Kenneth Beaty and to release him. We might not gain anything from his continued imprisonment. However, we will lose everything if he is harmed or dies. I leave this cause in the hands of God.

[Signed] Sincerely yours, your brother in Islam Mohammad Ali Clay

President Saddam Husayn, through Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's UN mission, New York:

Dear President Saddam Husayn, as a majority leader of Oklahoma in the House of Representatives, I appeal for your mercy and sympathy and for you to pardon U.S. prisoner Kenneth Beaty, who has been detained in the Abu Ghurayb Prison since 25 April 1993 on the charge of illegal entry into the country.

Mr. President: To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Beaty lost his way and unintentionally entered Iraq while he performing his duties as a worker in an oil field. Mr. Beaty is suffering from an acute chest infection, and his health is deteriorating. We appeal to you to release Mr. Beaty so that he can return to his wife and two children.

[Signed] Sincerely, Lloyd Benson, House majority leader

Prisoner Released

JN1511150893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—Iraq has released the U.S. prisoner Kenneth Beaty, who was sentenced to eight years in jail for entering Iraq illegally.

The said prisoner was released upon orders from President Saddam Husayn today, following a petition by David Boren, member of the U.S. Senate currently visiting Iraq. He presented the petition to President Saddam Husayn during his meeting yesterday with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

INA has learned that Senator Boren is a member of the U.S. Senate for Oklahoma, the state of prisoner Beaty. He is also a Democratic member of the Senate and opposed the war which George Bush launched against Iraq.

Prominent U.S. figures have also sent letters to President Saddam Husayn, appealing to his excellency to pardon the prisoner on humanitarian grounds due to his deteriorating health.

These figures included: Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter; former Attorney General Ramsey Clark; Texas Governor Ann Richards; Oklahoma Governor David Walters; Mohammad Ali Clay; Oklahoma State Deputy Larry Rice; Lloyd Benson, majority leader in Oklahoma House of Representatives; and 16 members of the U.S. House of Representatives representing the State of Texas.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Senator Boren

JN1411184893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Today, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received here U.S. Senator from Oklahoma David Boren and the delegation accompanying him. Boren is currently visiting Iraq.

Clandestine Reports on 'Secret' Geneva Talks With U.S.

NC1311163293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Geneva state that secret meetings have been taking place in that Swiss city between officials of the U.S. Administration and those of dictator Saddam Husayn's regime for the past two weeks.

According to these sources, U.S. figures [words indistinct] U.S. official team. The Baghdad regime is represented in the talks by Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Saddam's brother and his representative to the UN Headquarters in Geneva; a number of the regime's Foreign Ministry officials including under secretary Riyad al-Qaysi; and Nizar Hamdun, the regime's delegate to the United Nations.

The same sources point out (?that the first meeting) between Washington and Baghdad officials took place in Vienna on the sidelines of the recent international conference on human rights. Riyad al-Qaysi represented the regime at that time, too.

Technical Talks With UN To Resume 15 Nov

JN1311201493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Technical talks between Iraq and the United Nations are scheduled to start the day after tomorrow, Monday, in New York. The Iraqi team will be led by Lieutenant General Eng. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization. The UN team will be lead by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission.

These technical talks are expected to prepare the ground for a higher-level political talks next week. Vice Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz will lead the Iraqi delegation to these talks.

That round of talks will follow three rounds of talks between Iraq and the United Nations held constantly in Baghdad and New York since last July. The talks focused on the need for the Security Council and the United Nations to fulfill their obligations toward Iraq as stipulated by Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and to completely lift the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq.

Immediate End of Sanctions 'Unlikely'

NC1511091393 Paris AFP in English 0839 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 15 (AFP)—The Security Council is unlikely to lift sanctions against Iraq in the immediate future despite progress in eliminating its weapons of mass destruction, U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said in an interview published Monday [15 Monday].

Iraq had rejected a 1.6-billion-dollar oil export deal with the United Nations and it was now seeking a complete removal of the embargo, Ekeus said.

"But this is a remote possibility because Iraq must abide by all Security Council resolutions, especially accepting a long-term inspection of its capabilities and demarcation of borders with Kuwait," he told the United Arab Emirates daily AL-KHALIJ.

"The Security Council resolutions are inseparable."

The U.N. official added that Iraq's bid to have the ban lifted would be complicated if reports that it had used chemical weapons against Shiite Moslems in the south were confirmed.

U.N. officials and an Iraqi delegation are to meet in New York on Monday for what Baghdad said are talks on removal of the embargo.

Ekeus however said it was a "technical meeting" as a follow up to weapons talks in Baghdad last month.

Iraqi deputy prime minister Tariq 'Aziz will travel to New York next week to seek a removal of the embargo when the Security Council carries out a review.

Negotiator Stresses Importance of Oil

JN1211155893 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 93 pp 1, 2

[By Nahid al-Sharqawi]

[Text] Dr. 'Amir Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization and chairman of the National Committee for Technology Transfer in Iraq, has said that what obstructs the transfer of nonnuclear energy technology is the West's dissemination of incomplete technical data or its leaking useless patterns of technology that muddle development programs in developing nations.

He said such Western practices pose a great challenge to developing nations that seek to acquire information

about energy technology. He pointed out, however, that Iraq has managed to go beyond this stage by depending on its own efforts to develop the energy sector. He asserted that mobilizing human resources, making concerted efforts, and using efficient administrative methods all contribute to meeting the nuclear energy technology challenge. It is common knowledge that certain Western nations seek to finance environmental funds that aim to finance giant projects for oil and gas in oil-producing countries. The purpose of this is to entangle their oil industry in a web of difficult debts.

On prospects for developing the petrochemical industry, Dr. 'Amir Rashid said Iraq wants to develop the petrochemical industry, whose programs were slowed down because of the brute aggression against Iraq. He said Iraq wants to develop the petrochemical industry instead of just depending on exporting crude oil, especially since this industry yields considerable returns. He added that the petrochemical industry can be developed to produce competitive commodities on the world market.

Lieutenant General 'Amir Rashid said the claims of some oil experts (not to spend more money and energy on oil) are meant to abort the oil industry in the Arab world. He said: Maximum advantage should be taken of oil. He described oil as the master of energies.

He said that priority in Iraq's development programs and plans is given to developing oil technology. Programs to develop other forms of substitute energy are way down on the priority list and are part of programs to prepare for the post-oil era.

Asked by AL-JUMHURIYAH about how to face the flood of information on energy from Western sources, Lt. Gen. 'Amir Rashid stressed the role of scientific seminars and conferences that contribute to the creation of a database. He said, however, that this method alone is not enough. He also shed light on the role of Arab scientific research academies in providing information. He said that the Solar Energy Research Center plays an important role in this field.

Foreign Minister Comments on Talks with UN, Iran

JN1511154093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 16

[By Muhammad 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Baghdad—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has said that the Jordanian-Iraqi relations are excellent and will be greatly promoted once the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq is lifted. He said that these relations will certainly be a practical example worthy of emulation. He added that time has proved that these relations are firm relations built on solid foundations, and can prosper under all circumstances.

In an exclusive interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, al-Sahhaf spoke about the latest developments in Iraq, especially concerning the blockade, the next UN Security Council review of the blockade, and the provocations that are taking place against Iraq even though it has met all its international obligations. He said: The entire world has come to realize that whenever the date approaches of the bimonthly UN Security Council meetings to review the sanctions regime imposed on Iraq, anti-Iraq forces and their allies in the region start spreading lies and allegations to create an atmosphere that helps those Security Council members that seek to prolong the unjust blockade by any means. He said that at this time in particular, the evil Kuwaiti rulers' hysteria mounted in order to disturb the atmosphere ahead of Tariq 'Aziz's visit to the United Nations to continue the talks that were held in Baghdad in a positive atmosphere. He said that these talks aim to close the file of Part C of Resolution 687 so that the UN Security Council would begin implementation of its obligations toward Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

He added that those evil quarters became incensed when they found that Iraq's relations with the UN Security Council, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and inspection teams were moving toward a settlement of outstanding issues. Thus, he said, it would become a UN Security Council responsibility to implement this paragraph.

He said that such provocations and lies will prove useless, and will be ignored because international observers have denied that any incidents, such as the Iraqi car incident, have taken place. In fact, he said, it is a Kuwaiti fabrication. He added that the British are also cooperating with Iran and Iranian agents to propagate lies, such as the allegation that Iraq has used chemical weapons.

On Tariq 'Aziz's visit to New York, the Iraqi foreign minister said that this visit is to continue the talks that were held in Baghdad and which resulted in an agreement. He added that after some minor details are worked out, we hope the UN Security Council will begin implementation of Paragraph 22, which will not need a long time to be implemented.

He said: We hope that the UN Security Council will make a decision to meet its obligations as Iraq has seriously been doing for the past two and a half years.

He added: We attach importance to Tariq 'Aziz's visit. We believe that the Security Council's review session will take into consideration the substantial progress which took place in Baghdad in July, in New York in September, and then in the Baghdad meeting in October. We hope that the positive substantial progress which took place between Iraq and the International Atomic Energy Agency and inspection teams will be reflected in the UN Security Council debates to review the sanctions regime. We hope that the Security Council will adopt a balanced position, as it is difficult to ignore all that has taken place.

In response to a question on the bilateral negotiations that took place between Iraqi and Iranian Foreign Ministry officials, al-Sahhaf said: The contacts between Iraq and Iran depend solely on the desire to resolve the outstanding bilateral relations between the two countries. The Iranians used to say to us that there is a political decision to improve relations with Iraq in order to resolve problems. We welcomed that, but their actions soon exposed their intentions. They continue to hold about 25,000 Iraqi prisoners, refusing to release them for political reasons. This contravenes all rules of the international humanitarian law and any Islamic concept. There is also an equivalent number of Iraqi POW's who were not registered by Iran with the International Red Cross. Other outstanding issues include the Iraqi planes which were sent to Iran before the aggression, the repeated Iranian border violations and infiltrations, interference, and the artillery and aircraft bombardment inside our border. Therefore, there are problems between the two countries. They have expressed interest in talks, and so did we in order to resolve bilateral problems. We agreed to exchange Foreign Ministry technical delegations from both countries to prepare for a meeting for the two countries' foreign ministers.

He added: It was decided that an Iraqi delegation would leave last Friday, 12 November 1993. But it was decided to postpone the departure in view of the Iranian Government's involvement in the Zionist game of launching allegations against Iraq and in the fabricated stories about Iraq's use of chemical weapons. Regrettably, the Iranian Government is part of this game. He who seeks to solve his problems with Iraq should not engage in this ridiculous game.

Hammadi Discusses Ties With Jordan, Claim to Kuwait

JN1411140193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Nov 93 pp 24, 19

[Report by Muhammad 'Ubaydat]

[Excerpts] Baghdad—Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has praised the great efforts exerted by the Jordanian media, particularly during the Gulf crisis and the 30-state aggression against Iraq, noting that the Jordanian media played an honorable role. In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Hammadi stressed that relations with Jordan are good and normal, adding that the enemies of Jordan and Iraq want to harm these bilateral ties. He said: Any talk that undermines this relationship is incorrect because we, in Iraq, are well aware of Jordan's circumstances. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi information minister said that the major powers can change geography, but not history. This is a fact, and the examples are many, he added. Minister Hammadi asked: Why doesn't Japan forget its islands which are with Russia, and why didn't West Germany forget East Germany? He said that the issue is not Kuwait. However, he added, Kuwait was part of Iraq until 1961 when the British made a state out of it, and the situation continued until 1990.

Hammadi added: There was no demarcation of borders under the British colony and Kuwaiti passports were issued in al-Matla' area, 80 km from Safwan. However, what happened was that a part was detached from Iraq and was used against the root, Iraq. The Iraqi minister added: Before 1989, the Kuwaitis asked Iraq to demarcate the border while Iraq was preoccupied with its war with Iran. When Iraq made the same request after 1989, after achieving victories over Iran, the fears of the Kuwaiti side appeared.

The Iraqi minister said: After the war with Iran, the Zionist and American quarters engineered a big conspiracy after they saw Iraq's victories. Their objective was to curb Iraq's power and role. They want Iraq to retreat and carry out orders. Iraq, however, does not like that. Also, the Iraqi state of affairs does not please the United States or the West, because they know the Iraqis, their minds, and their potentials. Therefore, they planned to curb and destroy Iraq. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the reported deal to settle a large number of Palestinians in Iraq in exchange for lifting the blockade, the Iraqi culture and information minister said: We, in Iraq, do not make deals and will not agree on the peace settlement. Everything that has been said in this regard is baseless. [passage omitted]

Venezuela First Western Country To Return Envoy

NC1311150893 Paris AFP in English 1455 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 13 (AFP) - Venezuela has sent an ambassador back to Baghdad, becoming the first Western nation to take such a step since the 1991 Gulf war.

Ambassador Ernesto Velasco Rojas told AFP that he plans to present his credentials within the next week to the Iraqi authorities.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last month complained about the move to his Venezuelan counterpart, General Fernando Ochoa Antich, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the ambassador said.

A Kuwaiti official also complained about the move in Caracas, he added.

The 71-year-old diplomat, whose country is the third largest producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said "my mission will be 95 percent petrol, five percent politics."

Velasco said Venezuela was preparing for the eventual lifting of sanctions against Iraq and its return to the oil market.

The U.N. Security Council has said it would lift the sanctions in return for Iraq's pledge to abide by resolution 715 on the long- term monitoring of its arms program, in line with Gulf war resolutions.

Velasco said it was unlikely the embargo would be lifted any time soon.

"I am here to defend OPEC, my country and Iraq," said the ambassador, who plans to discussions with Iraqi officials on cooperation with OPEC over prices and output.

Iraq currently produces 400,000 barrels of oil a day for domestic consumption, against three million b/d before the embargo.

The U.N. slapped an embargo on Iraq two days after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Forces Conduct Ground-to-Ground Missile Exercise

JN1411204993 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 9 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] Karbala'—INA—Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid yesterday attended an exercise dubbed "Fatal Blow" conducted by a missile brigade affiliated with the Ground-to-Ground Missiles Corps.

At the start of the exercise, the assistant exercise commander, who holds the rank of brigadier general, presented a historical overview of the launching of this weapons category. He also provided information regarding the phases of the implementation of the exercise.

For his part, the commander of the Ground-to-Ground Missiles Corps, commander of the exercise, who holds the rank of a staff major general, gave a briefing on the annual training for the missile units. He provided an overall idea about the exercise and its purpose. He touched on the lessons meant to be learned from the exercise. He described the terrain in which the exercise was to be conducted, using a sand table.

The commander of the brigade that carried out the exercise held two conferences: The first was the command conference, while the second was the coordination conference. During the two conferences, he explained duties and presented detailed plans. Afterward, there was an exchange of views between attendees and the troops that were to carry out the exercise. The exercise commander answered the questions raised, most of which centered on good field performance.

In the aftermath of the discussion, the fighter defense minister acquainted himself with the specialized equipment to be used during the exercise. He listened to a detailed explanation of their specifications and field performance.

On schedule, the missiles al-Ra'd [Thunder] and al-Tariq [Striker] burst forth as lightning arrows. They hit their targets with a high degree of precision and effectiveness.

At the end of the exercise, the fighter defense minister commended those who carried out the exercise—commander, commanding officers, officers, and enlisted personnel—for their good training and high performance.

The exercise was attended by Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah, Army chief of staff, assistant Army chiefs of staff for operations and training, and senior Army officers.

Opposition Group Says Shiites Flee to Iran

NC1311213693 Paris AFP in English 1652 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 13 (AFP)—A group of Shiite refugees fleeing Iraqi army attacks in the south of the country have gathered near the Iranian border and are waiting to enter the country, an Iraqi opposition group said Saturday [13 November].

The army's "oppressive measures" have forced dozens of families to leave their homes in the southern marshlands of Iraq and move to the Hawr al-Hawizah region, the Iran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said in a statement.

In recent days, a group of 148 refugees arrived in southwestern Iran, bringing to 5,300 the number of Iraqi Shiites from the marshlands who have fled since July, according to official figures released here.

SAIRI, quoting the refugees, said Iraqi forces were "continuing their military and economic siege" of the Shiite areas, forcing the residents to flee toward the border.

The army has also drained the marshes and contaminated the environment with chemical substances and poison gas, it claimed.

On Monday the official IRNA news agency cited witnesses fleeing Iraq as saying Baghdad's forces had launched chemical assaults against the Shiite population in the south, killing a number of civilians.

Baghdad has repeatedly denied charges that it used chemical weapons. The United Nations is to dispatch a mission to Iran to investigate the matter.

A mission of the U.N. Special Commission to disarm Iraq, grouping ten experts and physicians, will be charged with questioning eyewitnesses of the alleged attacks and examining victims seeking refuge in Iran, UNSCOM spokesman Tim Trevan said.

SAIRI said last Sunday the Iraqi army was trying to decontaminate the chemically-polluted marshlands in case of a U.N. investigation.

Opposition Figure Denies Role in July Coup Attempt

JN1411133093 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 13 Nov 93 p 1

[By Jumanah Halasah]

[Text] Although it is said that the Gulf war is over and its secrets have been buried, what is taking place proves otherwise.

The military war caused two stars to fall: Bush and Thatcher. But its greatest star, Saddam Husayn, is still there, reminding everyone that the "Atari" war is not over yet.

Two well-known papers, THE INDEPENDENT and THE SUNDAY TIMES, last month raised an issue which continues to draw reactions.

The two papers said that Shaykh Talib 'Ali al-Suhayl and Jasim al-Tikriti, representatives of the Iraqi opposition abroad, agreed with the U.S. and British intelligence services, the CIA and the MI-6, to topple the Iraqi regime and assassinate Saddam Husayn on 17 July 1993 during a parade on the corrective movement anniversary.

AKHIR KHABAR has followed up this issue, and met with Shaykh 'Ali al-Suhayl, who has been living in Jordan along with his family since 1970.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Suhayl, who belongs to the Tamim tribes, whose members live in the Baghdad, Diyala, and al-Basrah Governorates, as well as in the Arab Gulf and Arabestan, said that what the two papers have reported is untrue.

He added: "Yes, I am affiliated with the Iraqi opposition abroad. I left Iraq for Lebanon in 1958, when a coup took place. In the era of 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Arif, I returned to Iraq, but I did not remain there. After the Ba'thists came to power, I returned to Lebanon. Afterward, I left for Jordan, where I have been living since 1970."

He said: "Political opposition exists everywhere. My opposition to the existing regime is based on serious political ideas and views. It has nothing to do with the so-called opposition shops headquartered in some capitals and which are engaged in financial extortion.

Shaykh al-Suhayl added that at the time of the alleged coup attempt, he was in Germany for brain surgery. Afterward, he visited Britain for treatment.

He asked: "Is it reasonable that the mastermind of the coup attempt be undergoing brain surgery on 15 July, two days before the alleged coup?"

He said: "The two papers claim that we run camps in Iraq. Afterward, we saw pictures in the London-based AL-WASAT, which is supported by Saudi Arabia, showing the Tamim tribe expressing support for Saddam Husayn. This proves that these press reports are false and unfounded.

He said: "The INDEPENDENT received a telephone call from the opposition shops asking for the publication of false information, which was later circulated by various papers and news agencies. This is an inhuman and unprofessional act. The paper sought no confirmation of the information, publishing only false information."

Shaykh al-Suhayl added: "The Irbil conference that was reported by these papers was a CIA creation. They chose opposition figures who are unacceptable both inside and outside Iraq, and who are members of parties with a corrupt past. We, the opposition, call for democracy, freedoms, and maintaining citizens' lives and dignity. We are not advocates of violence and murder. We have a longstanding history and a clear political line. We have never been supporters of any foreign party. We are pan-Arabists. We believe in the unity of Iraq and refuse to recognize an independent Kurdistan. We consider the Kurds to be Iraqis with all the rights and obligations of citizenship. This was the case in the monarchy era, when the Kurds constituted a majority in the state."

Al-Suhayl added: "There are states which claim to be supporters of the opposition. We have not received money—nor even moral support—from any party. We respect whoever we know to have no ambitions in Iraq. The opposition shops are trying to move us away from the arena, so that they can work freely."

He added: "CIA publications say that we have received $40 million from it. What they are referring to is the opposition which they have created. We have not and will not receive any funds, because we believe in our ideas and principles."

On what happened in Iraq on 14 July, Shaykh Talib al-Suhayl says that Major General Bashir Talib, an ex-Presidential Guard commander and an ex-ambassador, was arrested on the day of the parade and the revolution anniversary.

Also arrested was Jasim Mukhlis, a House of Representatives member in the monarchy era and later an ambassador. He is a pan-Arabist and head of the al-Hadithiyin tribe in Tikrit. He is the successor of Pasha Mawlud Mukhlis, a companion of King Faysal I and one of the founders of the state of Iraq. He added that as many as 1,200 people were arrested, including officers, politicians, and tribal chiefs.

He said: "Approximately 400 detainees were released a few days later, but the fate of the rest is unknown. We have recently heard that some corpses were handed to relatives. It is also said that the executions were old, not new."

In his statement to AKHIR KHABAR, Shaykh al-Suhayl added that the aim of the opposition to which he belongs is not to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and topple his regime, but to establish democracy in Iraq. He

said: "Those who try to frame us in assassination and coup attempts are plotting against us to achieve the objectives of the opposition shops."

Kurdish Officials Deny Presence of PKK Bases

NC1311174493 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The London-based Arabic newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported yesterday that the regional government of Iraq's Kurdistan has denied in a statement distributed in Ankara that there are Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] bases in the region. The paper added that the statement stressed the existing friendship and good relations between the regional government and the Turkish Government.

The paper also said that the regional government of Iraq's Kurdistan stressed that it guarantees the security of its borders with Turkey with its limited resources and that it is opposes terrorism.

Saddam Cables 'Arafat on Palestine Anniversary

JN1511103693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to his brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, on the fifth anniversary of declaring the state of Palestine. The cable reads:

On the fifth anniversary of declaring the state of Palestine, we are pleased to express to Your Excellency our sincere congratulations, wishing you continued good health and happiness, and the fraternal Palestinian Arab people success in achieving their national objectives. Peace be upon you.

Paper Criticizes 'Arafat's Condemnation of Settler Killing

JN1511102893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that U.S.-Zionist relations have been consolidated and promoted, contrary to all the misconceptions and inaccurate analyses of the Arabs who seek a settlement.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that the Zionist entity's role in the U.S. post-Cold War strategy will never end. It adds: A quick review of the course of U.S.-Zionist relations since Clinton took office clearly shows that these relations have risen to a new level of strategic partnership.

AL-THAWRAH points out that the Clinton administration seems more eager than any previous administration to secure the Zionist entity's qualitative military superiority despite the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement by providing this entity with sophisticated aircraft, removing barriers to the transfer of high technology, and enhancing its anti-missile capability.

The paper adds that the Clinton administration is launching a fierce political and information war against the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity, making hectic moves, and exerting various forms of pressures covertly and overtly to end this boycott, although the reasons for the boycott still exist and although the Zionist entity has thus far not withdrawn from a single inch of the occupied Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH also wonders: Why did Yasir 'Arafat actually condemn the killing of a Zionist settler and order Fatah members in the occupied territories to stop attacks against Zionism at a time when the Zionist settlers continue to escalate their terrorist and criminal attacks and operations against the Palestinian people?

Concluding, the paper says: How can there be any hesitation or fluctuation in U.S.-Zionist relations as long as four prominent advisers of Clinton and of his foreign policy engineers, led by Al Gore, are Jews coming from the Zionist lobby and from AIPAC [American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee] in particular?

Rabin, Clinton Confer on Peace Process, Syria

Rabin Comments at News Conference

TA1211180493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1710 GMT 12 Nov 93

["Text" of statement and responses to questions by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at joint news conference with U.S. President Bill Clinton in the White House's press room; in English—live]

[Text] Mr. President, the Vice President, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, ladies and gentlemen: A few weeks ago we took part in the historical moment of signing of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] between Israel and the PLO.

Mr. President, we appreciate and are thankful for the role that you have played in bringing the Declaration of Principles to its conclusion. We hoped, and we continue to hope, that this significant step will bring an end to a hundred years of terrorism and bloodshed.

Today we are in the midst of negotiations to implement the Declaration of Principles signed here, on the lawn of the White House on September the 13th. I told you, Mr. President, that these are complicated negotiations and in the process of reaching an agreement there will be ups and downs, but I am quite sure that we and the Palestinians have passed the point of no return in our efforts to implement the agreement.

This is why the PLO must condemn vigorously, openly, and immediately any action that it is in flagrant violation of the commitment to renounce terrorism. The basis for our advance and progress in the implementation of the agreement is that each side must keep its commitments.

The signing of the DOP has created a new hope and opened many opportunities in our negotiations with other Arab parties to the Washington negotiations for peace. We hope and expected that with your assistance, Mr. President, that these talks will be continued as soon as possible. We have found that direct and quiet contacts between Israel and its partners in the effort to achieve a comprehensive peace is the best way to overcome prejudices of the past. The less the talks are exposed to the limelight of the media, the better are the chances to achieve agreements.

We believe that you, Mr. President, and the secretary of state can assist in facilitating this particular mode of negotiations. We are, therefore, ready to continue with your assistance the negotiations with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. We believe that the substantial common agenda concluded with Jordan and further efforts made since can serve as a basis toward a major development on the road to the treaty of peace. We also look forward to achieve results in the negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, recognizing the importance of making progress in these areas. The positive conclusion of negotiations with the Arab neighbors will bring about a real comprehensive peace and will open the road to stability and prosperity for all the peoples and states in the region.

Mr. President, in a letter that I wrote to you at the beginning of this year I expressed Israel's readiness to take risks for the sake of peace. I was more than thankful, Mr. President, for your statement in which you declared your readiness to minimize the risk that Israel is willing to take for peace. Indeed, Mr. President, you have taken effective steps in this spirit.

In our talks today, we discussed the ways and the methods by which we should proceed in the peace negotiations and also to find additional means to strengthen Israel in view of the threats to the security of the state and to provide safety to its population.

Mr. President, peace and stability in the Middle East are threatened daily by yet another danger: the offensive mounted by the forces of radicalism and extremism. The offensive is two-fold: against any Arab moderate, pragmatic regimes as such, and against the peace process. Our discussions today also dwelt on this issue, and we agreed to initiate an ongoing dialogue between us, as well as with the others concerned parties.

Mr. President, we all appreciate the fair position that you have taken against the Arab boycott. The boycott can never be accepted and certainly not when the peace process is being advanced. For the people of Israel to support the government's peace policy, they must feel that the attitudes and the atmosphere have actually changed after September 13th. We feel that our good will is yet to be matched.

On the plane that brought me to the United States there came two parents: the Katz family, whose son Yehuda has been missing in action since 1982. We are investing ceaseless efforts to bring back Yehuda and all the other MIA's and prisoners. Your government and other friendly nations have helped in this humanitarian mission. We trust that you will continue in this sacred task.

Today you have gracefully told me and all the Israelis of your decision to strengthen the security of Israel. More specifically, your decision to continue the level of security assistance, to maintain our qualitative edge, to (?rule) the supply of advanced aircraft, the lifting of technological barriers, especially in the field of computers, and your decision to beef our capacity to defend ourselves against missiles is most significant.

Mr. President, we return home stronger in many aspects, more confident in our ability to reach peace, and we are sure that thousands of miles away from Israel we have a true friend in the White House that we can rely on.

On this occasion, I would like in very simple words to say to you and, through you to the vice president, the secretaries of state and defense, your administration, and the American people: Thank you and God bless you.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I have two questions actually. Are you going to send Secretary Christopher to the Middle East to activate the Syrian-Israeli track and to mount the Arab support for the Palestinian agreement, or you prefer to wait until Mr. Rabin gives you the green light to express desire to deal with Syria?

The second, to Mr. Rabin: Mr. Rabin, are you going to fight....

[Rabin, interrupting] We are talking about peace, not the resumption of fighting.

[Correspondent] No, I mean in a domestic battle. Are you going to fight a domestic battle for an agreement with Syria right now, or you still think that the Israeli public is not ready for it yet?

[Rabin] Israel has a long tradition of keeping its commitments. Whatever we take upon ourselves, every agreement that we sign, we will carry out. We expect those who sign with us agreements to keep, to fully keep their commitments as we do. There is no need to fight. It's true, in Israel there is an opposition to the position that the government has taken, to the agreement that has been signed, to the ways to carry it out. But, we are a democratic country, and once the decision is taken it is carried out.

[Correspondent] If 'Arafat doesn't condemn terror, should Israel suspend the talks with the PLO?

[Rabin] I believe that we have to stick to our commitments. I expect the other side to keep its commitment. I will not answer on hypothetical situations.

[Correspondent] I would like to ask you a question concerning the agreement, the peace agreement. There was a discussion that what was needed was economic development. There were a number of projects on Gaza concerning water canals, energy resources, etc. I'd like to ask what is your estimate of the magnitude of funding needed in order to get these projects into motion, and also what are the consequences if these projects are not realized within a certain amount of time in Gaza? Perhaps the prime minister would like to answer that question.

[Rabin] Today Israel supplies all the electricity needs of Gaza and the West Bank. There is no shortage of electricity there. The question is what will be the projects that will be built there, how much the consumption of energy and other items, including water. We continue also to add to the water supplies of Gaza by a pipeline that supplies them water. We need to negotiate all this. Before we negotiate, to throw figures will not be a serious statement.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I'd like to ask the prime minister, if I could, something about what you said Mr. Clinton today, about the Pollard case and why the matter continues to be such a priority with you, sir.

[Rabin] I don't believe it will be advisable to me to add on this issue to what the President said.

Rabin on U.S. Arms Promises

TA1311093793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Report by Arye Golan in Washington]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] At a news conference at Andrews Air Force Base before making haste to arrive in New York before the onset of the Sabbath, Rabin spoke with satisfaction about the promises he received a few hours earlier from the U.S. President.

[Begin Rabin recording] I was pleased to receive from the president a promise that in the 1995 budget—which begins 1 October, 1994—he will propose that the present level of military aid to Israel remain intact. For us, that is of prime importance. The second issue we discussed is linked to our qualitative superiority. We have permission to procure the most sophisticated aircraft. We will apparently soon get permission to receive most of the super computers we are requesting—I do not want to say we will get them all, but at least most of them. We have permission to receive all sorts of armaments, which we will be discussing Monday [15 November] with the secretary of defense. There is a readiness to provide us from drawdowns very advanced aircraft, for which only five years ago we paid tens of millions of dollars. I assume that we will receive them in not insignificant numbers in the near future. We are also due to receive other military equipment. I would like to remind you that only three months ago we received within the draw-down framework, 24 Apache helicopters, which seriously bolstered the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. We also broached other fields, some of which will be discussed in detail at the Pentagon on Monday. [end recording]

[Passage omitted] The prime minister was asked about the sharp reactions by Jewish settlers to his remarks to a group of New York rabbis that 'Imanu'el and Ari'el are not needed.

[Begin Rabin recording] Up to now, I have used microphones only with journalists, I now apparently also have to do so when talking with rabbis in the United States. I presented, and reiterate, the change in the national order of priorities of this government. I said that I do not see any reason why we should continue to pour money into Ari'el and 'Imanu'el, as was done before us, and that we have diverted these funds to other areas. That is what I said, and that is what I plan to do. That is why there is significant additional funding for education, the building of a transportation infrastructure, and the war against unemployment. For me, these are more important than funneling funds to the territories. [end recording]

Returning to the tete-a-tete with President Clinton, they discussed the deadlocked negotiations with the Syrians. At their joint news conference, President Clinton stressed the importance of achieving peace between Israel and Syria. But, for Prime Minister Rabin implementing the agreement with the PLO and achieving an accord with Jordan takes preference.

[Begin Rabin recording] I believe that implementing the clauses in the declaration of principles agreement which refer to Gaza and Jericho First is of prime importance. To me, implementing agreements is important. If these agreements are not implemented they are worthless. We have to prove that the moment an accord is achieved it is implemented and honored by each of the signatories. Therefore, for me the priorities are to implement agreements, to continue the negotiations with Jordan—to fulfill all sorts of expectations—and to continue the negotiations with Syria. We want peace treaties with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon. We already have one with Egypt. [end recording]

On the Sabbath eve, Rabin was the guest of honor at a dinner given by Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi. Other guests around the table included UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who welcomed everybody in Hebrew, and the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council, including the Chinese ambassador, who wore a large skullcap. Who would have believed such an evening could take place, Rabin wondered aloud, and called on Butrus-Ghali to double the financial aid to the Palestinians in the territories. Brutus-Ghali promised to do so. Rabin returns to Washington Sunday evening to continue his talks.

U.S. Said To Mediate in Syria Talks

TA1411091793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Nov 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Hemi Shalev, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] In their meeting in Washington last week, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and President Bill Clinton concluded that Secretary of State Warren Christopher will go on a shuttle mission to the Middle East at the beginning of December to begin practical efforts to promote peace between Israel and Syria.

Political sources in Jerusalem expressed satisfaction with the results of the meeting, defining it as "very good." In their discussion, Rabin and Clinton also agreed that the United States would propose to Syria to open a quiet channel of discussions with Israel, with active U.S. mediation.

Sources in Jerusalem further reported that, in the coming weeks, Israel and Jordan will begin practical negotiations to complete details relating to the signing of the peace agreement between the two countries. The parties will also deal with attaining coordination between the economic agreements Israel has made with the Palestinians and those made with the Jordanians.

The sources reported that these talks may be completely or partly secret, following the example of the Cairo talks with the Palestinians, and that the United States has promised to help organize them.

The sources believe that the United States will also work to establish a secret channel of negotiations between Israel and Syria. A senior political source said last night that "the Madrid process and the Washington talks are, in fact, dead," although it is possible that the parties will reconvene for several additional rounds of talks. [passage omitted]

Rabin Discusses Peace Process Developments

PM1111142193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Nov 93 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by special correspondents Dmitriy Kulik and Vladislav Fronin in Jerusalem; date not given: "Yitzhaq Rabin: If You Want To Live in Peace, Establish Peace First With Your Neighbors"]

[Text] Jerusalem—On our way to Jerusalem, in Jericho, we were surprised to find that our car with Israeli license plates was greeted unusually calmly by the Palestinians, and stones or Molotov cocktails were not thrown at us, as might have happened before. But we were most astonished to see Palestinian flags on the roofs of houses: Even two months ago those could have meant a spell in jail. It looks as though peace is coming to the land of constant wars... While congratulating you on the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreements, we would like to learn your opinion regarding Palestinian autonomy. Are the agreements the only means of achieving a just peace in the region?

[Rabin] In addition to the peace with Egypt, we must also achieve harmony with the other neighboring Arab countries—Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. It is also important to resolve the most ancient conflict—that with the Palestinians.

As is well known, you don't conclude peace agreements with friends. There is no need for this. You negotiate on peace with enemies, sometimes even with extremely bitter enemies.

Since Israel has been on these lands, our neighbors have been the Arabs, the Arab people, the Islamic world. If you want to live in peace, establish peace first with your neighbors. In particular, conditions we agreed to see the Palestine Liberation Organization as a partner representing the Palestinian people in the peace talks. I do not believe that at present there is any other such partner capable of supporting the peace process and prepared to change his position, as Yasir 'Arafat did in the letter he sent to me about mutual recognition and readiness to accept not all the demands of the Declaration on the Principles of a settlement, but the main ones.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] How did the secret talks between the PLO and Israel begin? Who was the first to extend a hand to his enemy?

[Rabin] It all began when we started to secretly sound out the PLO's position, its wish to change its policy of terror and nonrecognition of Israel's right to exist, and also the organization's readiness to settle disagreements through

peace talks. When it became clear that the PLO was indeed ready to compromise and would agree to include in the declaration Israel's main demands, we said: "Okay, we're under way."

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The Palestinians cannot envision their future state without Jerusalem. At the same time you have declared that this city will forever remain the capital of Israel. Aren't you afraid that the problem of Jerusalem may deadlock the peace process?

[Rabin] The wise actions that can bring both sides to the signing of a permanent peace agreement are primarily the definition of a period of self-government during which the Palestinians and we would begin to coexist peacefully.

The Palestinians have agreed to introduce for five years a period of self-government during which Jerusalem will remain under Israel's control. The formation which we might describe as autonomy nevertheless will not have complete control over Jerusalem. The agreed decisions were a good start. The question now is how a permanent peace agreement is going to be structurally formalized.

I think that the Palestinians and we must now direct our efforts toward implementing the document that was signed. The number one goal is Gaza-Jericho. Then we will have to continue in the spirit of the Washington accords and resolve vital questions: What is the Palestinian council (the Arabs call it a parliament—Authors' Note) going to be like, what will be its composition, number of members, procedure for election, and so forth.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But the situation is gradually getting out of the PLO's control and passing into the hands of radical organizations like Hamas. Opposition to peace with the Arabs is also growing in Israel itself. Isn't there a danger that the peace agreements will exist only on paper?

[Rabin] Everything is dangerous now... Anyone who ignores danger fails to see reality. But I hope that we will overcome the opposition's resistance within the context of democratic traditions and that in time the PLO will take control of the situation in the occupied territories. I believe that today the majority of Palestinians support the peace agreement. After all, it is clear that the agreement can bring nearer a solution of their problems in the economy and the social sphere. For the first time they will be able to run their life themselves. The PLO must be more courageous and resolutely resist Hamas. For Hamas is opposed to any agreements and is trying to terrorize its opponents, especially the Israelis, in order to strengthen the opposition camp in Israel itself. But I do not think they will succeed in pushing the Palestinian people onto the path of terror. If people in Israel are waiting in the belief that opposition to the peace accords will strengthen, they are mistaken.

Israel and the PLO must negotiate more rapidly and create conditions where the PLO is in total control of Palestinians' lives. We now need help from abroad in order to finance economic projects, not PLO embassies throughout the world not doing what they should be. The Palestinians, and there are around 1 million of them in the Gaza sector, for instance, could receive new homes, a water supply system, production capacities, and help for the education system. So we too gain from support for the PLO.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] We represent a paper that everybody who has arrived in Israel from Russia probably knows. So our next question is about the position of new immigrants. The Labor Party's victory in the general election was largely due to their support. You promised the immigrants a better life, but their position is deteriorating.

[Rabin] I do not think that changes can happen rapidly. Nevertheless, I believe that there are changes for the better... For instance, 70,000 families of new immigrants from Russia have settled into apartments or individual houses, which shows the level of material opportunity. Today 83 percent of immigrants from the former Soviet Union have work, although naturally some of them are working in a totally different occupation from the one they pursued before they arrived here. Don't forget that 500,000 people have arrived from the republics of the former USSR. Thirty-six percent of them are aged under 45, and there are no problems with them. The main problem is with finding work in the state or private sector for those who are over 50.

Of course, the new arrivals expected more. But since we stopped the policy of expenditure on the territories (that is, of constructing and maintaining settlements on the occupied territories—Authors' Note) and began to invest the money in the infrastructure and education, unemployment has begun to decline. I believe that each wave of immigrants, as in the past, takes seven years to get settled.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] When we asked about Israelis' reaction to the events of 3-4 October in Moscow, almost everybody said that Yeltsin was right to "disperse the conservative parliament." However, if something similar had happened in Israel, they would have risen to the defense of their parliament. We know that you have very tricky relations with the Knesset... What is your view of events in Moscow?

[Rabin] First of all I do not think I have the right to pass judgment on events in Moscow, still less draw any parallels with the situation in Israel. We are in absolutely different dimensions. In Israel democracy is well organized and adapted to our pace of life. I can see no possibility of a similar confrontation between the executive and legislative branches here. We sense every day our dependence on the majority in our parliament. And we have no president possessing the functions of leader of the executive branch, and I as prime minister rely only on the majority in the Knesset in adopting edicts.

The situation in Russia is totally different. Your dissolved parliament was elected in the old days, and the

president was elected after substantial changes in the country. The views of their duties taken by parliament and the president were in practice totally different.

We believe in change. So far as we are concerned, Yeltsin personifies change, and the former Supreme Soviet the past.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What is your view of Russian-Israeli relations?

[Rabin] We are prepared to improve them in every possible way and to open the door for all types of cooperation between the two countries. After all, Russia is the cochairman of the Arab-Israeli peace talks. We are also interested in developing trade relations. Economic cooperation must be based on mutual interest, so that if a project is important to both sides, it will work.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] You mentioned Russia's participation in the Arab-Israeli talks. What, in your view, is the Russian Federation's role in the peace process in the Near East?

[Rabin] Russia's role in the talks is very limited. The reason is that nobody expects substantial economic aid from it. For instance, after the signing of the agreements the Palestinians are hoping to receive $2-3 billion over the course of five years. It is clear that now is not the time to ask Russia to allocate millions of dollars for their needs.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Israelis regard theirs as a democratic state. At the same time you have no constitution. How could you explain this?

[Rabin] The world's oldest democracy—Britain—also has no constitution. We have traditions and a code of fundamental laws. There is the problem of relations between the state and the church. However, the degree of friction is not worsening, otherwise relations may be complicated not only with religious parties, but also with ordinary people who voted for other (nonreligious—Authors' Note) parties... [Rabin ends]

At this point the conversation was interrupted, since Rabin had to go urgently to a Knesset session. However, he told us to stay and have some coffee with his press secretary. "It's me they've summoned, not you. You can stay," the premier said. A straightforward and friendly attitude are sometimes just as important for a politician as his political program...

Peres on Economic Projects With Jordan, Syria

TA1211125193 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Nov 93 pp 1, 10

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Nehama Dowek in Tel Aviv on 11 November]

[Text] "Soon we will issue tenders for feasibility studies for several giant economic projects in the field of infrastructure with Jordanian-Israeli cooperation," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told YEDI'OT AHARONOT. "There is no reason for Husayn to tie the peace agreement with Jordan to progress on the Syrian track. Both we and him want peace."

Peres denied reports that a Rabin-Husayn meeting was expected to take place in Washington. "To the best of my knowledge, no such meeting has been planned. This is all media speculation, which is why there is no room for disappointment."

Peres added: "I do not understand this. After all, open talks were held between myself and the Jordanian crown prince in Washington. We decided to establish a tripartite Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. committee. We issued a public declaration. Where is the secrecy? What is holding up signing the agreement? I am also surprised about the leaks. They are unnecessary."

Shim'on Peres further said: "I hope that the negotiations with the Syrians, in the framework of the bilateral talks, will resume by the end of this year." According to Peres, during his U.S. visit, the prime minister will make an effort to renew the bilateral talks with all the parties. "The next step in the political process is the resumption of the Washington talks with Jordan, the Palestinians, and Lebanon." Peres said.

Regarding the negotiations with Syria, the foreign minister said that Syria has been demanding that Israel notify it of a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a basis for the negotiations on a comprehensive peace agreement. "At the same time," Peres said, Israel wants to negotiate four issues: withdrawal, peace, security, and Lebanon."

Regarding the publication of the tenders on joint projects with Jordan, the foreign minister said that the projects are in the sphere of infrastructure, water, railways, chemicals, airports, and tourism. They will be executed in cooperation with the EC, which will invest in them. The projects will be carried out by multinational and local companies. "We will decide which of the projects will be implemented after the feasibility studies are ready," he said.

Yesterday, Peres also addressed a Tel Aviv University forum, marking the 12th anniversary of Moshe Dayan's death. There, he said that the Arab countries are aware of the fact that time is running out, and that their greatest enemy is not Zionism, rather, it is Iranian-sponsored fundamentalism.

"We need a single Middle East," Peres said. "We made peace with Egypt, and it will not be long before we conclude agreements with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. We shall heal every wound."

[Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 12 November carries an ITIM report on page 2 on the above mentioned Peres address, adding: "Peres also said that he was happy to hear that members of the Likud had expressed support

for the peace process with Jordan. 'I congratulate them on that, and believe this step strengthens Israel in the negotiations,' he said.

["'Muslim fundamentalism is not a political movement nor a religion. It is an ever-increasing form of protest,' Peres said. He noted that the fundamentalists who were elected in the Jordanian elections received their support from the poor neighborhoods, protesting the poverty there. 'Fundamentalism aspires to obtain nuclear weapons, and poses a threat to the stability of the Arab regimes,' he added."]

Netanyahu Statement on Golan Concessions Assailed

Likud Chairman Favors 'Minor' Concessions

TA1211204493 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu stated in a closed Likud session yesterday that he favors minor territorial concessions on the Golan Heights, and he reiterated those remarks this evening in an interview with our correspondent Dov Gilhar.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] Were the prime minister to talk about those cosmetic changes, about those famous centimeters in the Golan Heights he mentioned before the elections, I do not think he would have any problem either with me or with my party.

[Gilhar] Those centimeters in the Golan Heights you talk about, do they include Majdal Shams if its inhabitants agree to relocate to Syria?

[Netanyahu] The prime minister wants to readopt the formula he mentioned before the elections, there is room for cosmetic changes. However, if what he is talking about is a significant withdrawal in the Golan Heights—not to mention stepping down from the Golan Heights—this would unravel security and would consequently drive peace away rather than bring it closer. [end recording]

Sharon Criticizes Netanyahu Remarks

TA1411091993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon says that the PLO will continue its acts of murder. Sharon is demanding that two clauses be added to the agreement with the Palestinians, one giving the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] freedom of action in its war against terrorism, the other regulating Army presence in security zones outside the Jewish settlements and on traffic axes.

Reacting to Likud Chairman Netanyahu's remarks that he agrees to a cosmetic withdrawal on the Golan Heights, MK Sharon told our correspondent Karmit Gay the Likud position is unequivocally opposed to any withdrawal. He added that any other position only undermines the Likud's position.

Reacting to Sharon's remarks, MK Netanyahu said there is no change in his position, and that he continues to firmly oppose any withdrawal on the Golan Heights.

Likud 'Up In Arms' Over Remarks

TA1311205393 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Announcer-read introduction with report from correspondent Menashe Raz in the studio]

[Text] The Likud is up in arms over Binyamin Netanyahu's remarks last night that he and his party would not object to cosmetic adjustments and to a withdrawal of a few centimeters in the Golan Heights. His remarks triggered sharp reactions from the Likud, other right-wing parties, and in the Golan settlements. Our party affairs correspondent Menashe Raz reports from the studio:

It was an unnecessary and irresponsible statement; an attempt to give the Likud an image of a conciliatory middle-of-the-road party, and that is not what the Likud is all about. The damage is even worse when considering that the message being delivered to Damascus at a time when negotiations are under way is that even a tough party such as the Likud is prepared to make concessions on the Golan. These harsh words were uttered today by a key Likud Knesset member [MK] on condition of anonymity.

The reaction of MK Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, this evening was: No Likud institution has ever held a debate on the issue. Such statements have never been endorsed and, consequently, there has been no change in the Likud's position.

MK 'Uzi Landau said he could not conceive of anybody in the Likud being able to use the word withdrawal, however minor it may be, when referring to the Golan Heights.

MK Ron Nahman said: I was astonished. I felt as if I had been struck by lightning. A cosmetic withdrawal is absurd. Any such statements do not heighten the Likud's prestige.

Sammy Bar-Lev, a Likud Central Committee member and head of the Qatzrin local council on the Golan Heights, told me: I am disappointed. I have learned not to trust politicians, either right- or left-wing. The Israeli people are behind the Golan, and that is what counts. Through such statements, Netanyahu loses whatever little popularity he still has left. Such statements only harm the Likud.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told me this evening: There will be no withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Netanyahu did not at all mean to express a change in this position. Shamir is convinced that Netanyahu's remarks were taken out of context.

Tzomet chairman Refa'el Eytan watched the uproar from the sidelines, and did not directly attack Netanyahu. In a communique released this afternoon he said: The Likud is turning its back on its platform. The talk of

concessions on the Golan Heights puts the Likud on par with Labor, which does not abide by its platform either.

It should be pointed out that 'AL HAMISHMAR reported similar remarks by Netanyahu over two weeks ago [as heard], but the Likud chairman hastened to deny them. The same anonymous Likud MK I mentioned earlier told me: The statement was made for the sake of popularity. The guy is under pressure because of his standing in the polls, and such talk is in. However, he had better think about his level of support rather than his television ratings.

Commenting on the affair, Netanyahu's adviser said: It is much ado about nothing. There has been no change whatsoever in the Likud chairman's position, and Netanyahu continues to categorically object to a Golan Heights withdrawal.

Suspects in 29 Oct Settler Murder Said Fatah Members

Shin Bet, IDF Expose 'Terrorist Squad'

TA1211120893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] The following is an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's statement. It says that in recent days, the Shin Bet and IDF elements in Judaea and Samaria have exposed a terrorist squad in the area of Ramallah. The squad members are suspected of having abducted and murdered Hayim Mizrahi at a poultry farm near Bet El on 29 October.

Five young Fatah members are suspected of involvement in the murder. The IDF spokesman said that according to the suspects' statements during interrogation, they had perpetrated the murder independently and had not received instructions from anyone.

During the interrogation, one of the suspects led the security forces to a site in which Hayim Mizrahi's personal weapon, which had been stolen from him after the murder, was hidden. The security forces retrieved the weapon.

Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, has instructed Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to talks with the PLO, to relay the information to his counterpart, Dr. Sha'th, along with Israel's indignation over the murder, and especially over the fact that it had been perpetrated by Fatah contrary to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's pledge that his organization would stop all terrorist activities. In his talk with Sha'th, Gen Shahaq pointed out that the deed was unacceptable and required public denunciation by the most senior PLO figures as well as clarification as to what measures the PLO planned to take to prevent the recurrence of such events.

One of the detained Fatah squad members, who was feeling unwell, was moved to a hospital where he was found to be suffering from a cerebral hemorrhage; he has undergone surgery to stem the hemorrhage. The authorities are investigating the circumstances of the case.

Of the five people involved in the murder, two had been permanently employed at the poultry farm. One of them lives in the village of Bi'r al-Zu'r, three are from al-Nabi Salih, and the fifth is a wanted criminal from al-Birah. This was the IDF spokesman's statement.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 12 November adds: "A military source told our correspondent that the facts that have been revealed in this case have serious implications for the agreement with the PLO and on IDF activity in the territories."]

Reactions By Sarid, Likud

TA1211151093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Excerpts] A Fatah terrorist squad suspected of having kidnapped and murdered Bet El settler Hayim Mizrahi was captured in the Ramallah area. [passage omitted]

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman would like to emphasize that the squad members left a note on the scene of the murder stating that they belonged to the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. [passage omitted]

Reacting to the capture of the Fatah squad, Minister Yosi Sarid said that this time the PLO leaders must assume some responsibility for the hideous murder and denounce it in clear and sharp language, despite the fact that the squad operated on its own initiative rather than on the PLO's orders. He told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that the PLO leaders must adopt all the necessary measures to make sure that such deeds do not recur and spell out how they intend to deal with such squads once the PLO is handed over authority over the area. Sarid went on to say that the PLO must now prove to Israel's government and people that it honors the agreement which obliges it to renounce and fight terror. The PLO must assure the Israeli people that such terrorist actions are totally unacceptable and intolerable and that as far as the PLO is concerned the killers will bear the consequences of their actions. Replying to a question, Sarid said he is of the opinion that Israel must not halt the talks with the PLO or take any other measures. Mr. Sarid denounced the demands coming from Tunis to release the squad members, saying such demands were inane and had better not be uttered at all.

The Likud says that the prime minister gives cover to the terrorists with his lies and calls on him to quit.

Moledet calls on the government to stop the false peace process at once, and notes that the uncovering of the squad proves there is no difference between the PLO and Hamas. [passage omitted]

Rabin: Attack 'Serious Violation'

TA1211161693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] The meeting in the White House between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton is still under way at this point.

Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that before entering the session, the prime minister said that the fact that Bet El settler Hayim Mizrahi was murdered by Fatah members constitutes a serious violation of the PLO's commitment to denounce terror included in Yasir 'Arafat's letter to him. Mr. Rabin emphasized that this letter is the basis for progress toward peace. According to Rabin, Israel demands that the Palestinians honor their commitments and openly deplore acts of violence.

Rabin: Terror Could Affect Peace Talks

TA1211212093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that if it emerges that the PLO does not abide by its commitment to denounce and renounce terror, the basis of Israel's agreement to mutual recognition will have been removed. Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr. Rabin made these remarks in a news conference with Israeli correspondents in Washington prior to taking off from Andrews Air Force Base to New York to spend the weekend.

The prime minister added that there would be no sense in attaining additional agreements if it emerges that one of the sides does not fulfill its commitment on such a key issue. Mr. Rabin went on to say that if the PLO does not issue a denunciation and repudiation and if does not reiterate its commitment to abstain from engaging in terror, this will certainly have an impact on the continuation of the peace talks. The prime minister refused to elaborate on the issue.

Peres on 'Arafat Reaction

TA1211192793 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] The Fatah squad that murdered Hayim Mizrahi near Bet El contravened orders to stop violent operations against Israel, Yasir 'Arafat stated today in a telephone conversation with Shim'on Peres, the acting prime minister and foreign minister. In an interview with our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, Mr. Peres said the talks with the Palestinians would continue as planned.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I spoke to 'Arafat this morning, and I brought this incident to his attention. He reiterated to me that all his men had been issued clear orders not to engage in any violent activities. I also asked him to publicly clarify his position on the matter, and he promised me he would do so. In any event, we will not be lenient in our punishment of the perpetrators of this hideous murder, and we will not play down the responsibility of the organization's leaders.

[Sukenik] How did 'Arafat explain the incident?

[Peres] He said it was not carried out by orders from the top, of course, but in contravention of his policy.

[Sukenik] In other words, you and the security forces are convinced that this squad operated on its own initiative without any instructions whatsoever from a PLO-affiliated body.

[Peres] We are convinced that Fatah has been issued orders to stop its operations. We are convinced that with the exception of this case, Fatah members have indeed been obeying these orders. Therefore, this would seem to be an exceptional case.

The negotiations will continue according to their own logic, while life will be protected as need be. [end recording]

'Arafat Condemnation Letter Published

TA1411114993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Nov 93 p 1

[Text of "Yasir 'Arafat's 13 November letter of condemnation"]

[Text] "We denounce and condemn the murder of Israeli civilian Hayim Mizrahi. This is an act of terror, which we oppose, and which was perpetrated without the knowledge of the PLO leadership. We demand that everyone honor the agreement regarding the termination of acts of violence in order to preserve the peace process."

Peres Comments on 'Arafat Statement

TA1411073993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] Good morning, Mr. Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Gay] It took a day-long effort over the telephone both by yourself and by Yitzhaq Rabin's people in New York with the PLO leaders in order to squeeze out of 'Arafat a denunciation of Mizrahi's murder. Will this happen next time as well?

[Peres] I do not think so. I do not think I tried to squeeze out anything. I called 'Arafat and told him he must immediately denounce this, and he agreed immediately. I do not know about a need for any additional pressure. 'Arafat himself said it was not done by his orders, and that he ordered an end to all acts of terrorism in the territories. He also reiterated this in public. Faysal al-Husayni has said this earlier. Generally speaking,

almost all PLO leaders expressed themselves against terrorism over the last month.

[Gay] Does this indicate that 'Arafat cannot fulfill his commitments? Perhaps he does not have control over the men in the field?

[Peres] Look, so far this is an exception, and I hope it will remain so. I do not want to judge anybody. We will check everything by facts, not guesswork. Two things are clear: One, the PLO—as an organization—is implementing its commitment to end terrorism. Two, this case was exceptional. We will have to see whether there will be any more exceptions. We will judge only by actions.

[Gay] Maybe the organizations which oppose the agreement will carry out attacks and try to put the blame on the PLO.

[Peres] This can certainly happen. We know that there can be many provocations along the road. There are people who abhor the prospect of peace. Doubtlessly, they will invest great efforts in trying to murder the peace process, therefore we must evince great determination. Under no circumstances will we allow any knife-wielder or gunman to murder the peace process. We will not surrender to them and we will not be intimidated by them—we will act against them. We will also insist that the PLO fully and unequivocally fulfill its commitment.

[Gay] What will take place in this week's talks with the PLO?

[Peres] Look, progress was made in the low-profile talks. There is a big difference between talking through megaphones and attempting a dialogue between two sides. The megaphones and the concept of a dialogue contradict each other. Some things must be done quietly, not in order to make an impression, but in order to attain an agreement. I believe that the first Cairo meeting indeed contributed toward achieving this objective. I want to believe that the next meeting will also contribute.

We have to remember that we have a very tight timetable, because we agreed to finalize in two months the issues which were not concluded in Oslo. This week we will hold the economic meeting in Paris. This meeting will apparently be held on Tuesday [16 November] between a PLO and an Israeli delegation headed by the finance minister.

There are three separate areas: One, the sphere of security, including borders and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment. Two, the issue of the transfer of authorities. Three, the economic issue. In my meeting with 'Arafat I not only demanded that they arrive on time, but that they come with clear stands, so that we can conclude what has to be done.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Minister Shim'on Peres.

Rabin: Talks 'Must Go Ahead'

TA1311171993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that in the wake of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's denunciation of the murder of Hayim Mizrahi by five Fatah members we must go ahead with the negotiations on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that a communique released by the prime minister in New York further states that the goal of Palestinian terror elements opposed to the agreement is to bring about the termination of the negotiations and the abrogation of the agreement, and that Israel has no intention of playing into their hands. Nevertheless, 'Arafat's main test will be to bring terror and violence by elements subordinate to him to an end, the communique notes.

Our correspondent points out that Shim'on Sheves and Jacques Neriya, respectively the director general of the Prime Minister's Office and the prime minister's adviser, had telephone contacts through the night with PLO leaders in Cairo and Tunis, and that at the end of these contacts 'Arafat issued the statement denouncing the murder and stating that it had been perpetrated without the knowledge of the Palestinian leadership. 'Arafat further demanded that all Palestinians stop acts of violence to ensure the continuation of the peace process.

Ministers on Fatah Involvement in Murder

TA1411115993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Report by Hayim Hecht—recorded]

[Text] [Hecht] During today's cabinet session the ministers, from hawkish Shim'on Shetrit to dovish Ya'ir Tzaban, did not conceal their anger and disappointment about the involvement of PLO members in acts of murder. The ministers said that the public will no longer settle for excuses and explanations. The ministers' anger grew sevenfold after security elements told them that several hours after the murder of Hayim Mizrahi in Bet El and while the manhunt for the terrorists was going on, the murderers briefed one of Fatah's activists in the territories about the attack. This means that one way or another the PLO was in the know. The questions which surfaced in the wake of this briefing were unavoidable: Was this information relayed by the Fatah people in the territories to Tunis? Was Yasir 'Arafat aware of this? Did senior Fatah activists help the terrorists hide after the attack? The answer to this last question is apparently negative. This is what Minister Yosi Sarid has to say:

[Sarid] It was unequivocally stated by the security authorities that the PLO has relayed clear orders to its activists in the field to refrain from any acts of terrorism. This order, which was relayed more than once, is clear and unequivocal. At the same time, while PLO denunciation of terrorism is a positive thing, it is not sufficient. The PLO

must show at least the first signs of gaining control on the ground, of being able to control the territories.

[Hecht] Sir, to the best of your knowledge, was this information from the field relayed to 'Arafat's knowledge in Tunis?

[Sarid] Apparently not, but this thing is still being examined. It is clear that PLO-Tunis was not involved or informed.

[Hecht] Will the senior PLO activist in the territories, who knew about the murder but failed to report it, be detained?

[Sarid] I believe this is indeed required.

[Hecht] Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said that the talks with the PLO must be continued, but we must make it clear that we are nobody's fools:

[Ben-Eli'ezer] We must firmly demand of the PLO what we believe is necessary: Namely, that they fulfill all their commitments. We are daily getting different explanations regarding why this or that has happened. We heard their denunciation. The question is how are 'Arafat and his men going to gain optimal control on the ground.

[Hecht] Minister Shim'on Shetrit referred to the information relayed during the cabinet session:

[Shetrit] It is important to realize that the Fatah people who received the information were low-level people, and they decided not to pass the information on to Tunis. This was a mistake, and it indicates that the leadership in Tunis is not fully in control of events in the field. We therefore have to demand of them to start implementing their control on the ground, even before the Palestinian policemen are deployed, because if the extremist elements gain control over the Palestinian street, even 13,000 policemen will find it difficult to control the area. Therefore it is important for the Palestinian leadership to start changing the atmosphere in the territories and create new social and political norms banning acts of terrorism by all those who are interested in the continuation of the peace process.

[Hecht] Did these low-level activists aid the terrorists in hiding from the security forces?

[Shetrit] They did not help them, but they were mistaken in not passing this information on to Tunis, in light of the fact that this attack constituted a violation of Tunis' orders.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 14 November, in a report on the cabinet session, adds the following: "Minister Hayim Ramon told our correspondent, however, that the members of the squad briefed a senior Fatah activist. The man was extremely angry, but did nothing. Ramon does not know whether this senior activist briefed 'Arafat and the PLO leadership."]

[Hecht] During the cabinet session, Minister Sarid sharply criticized the chief of staff and the Police commissioner. He said that while we are demanding of the PLO to control its people our settlers are rioting and carrying out unbridled acts of retaliation. Minister Sarid's message to Chief of Staff Baraq and Commissioner Peled was clear: Your forces are not doing enough to curb the settlers.

Today's cabinet session was headed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Right-Wing Parties, Settlers React

TA1211130393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Here are some reactions in Israel to the report on the capturing of the Fatah squad: The Tzomet faction called on the prime minister to immediately return from the United States to discuss the new state of affairs in which the PLO is involved in terror acts. Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan said that this proves that the PLO has not retracted on its efforts to annihilate Israel.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the NRP [National Religious Party] faction said that the uncovering of the squad exposes the government's great lie. NRP Chairman Zvulun Hammer said that the plaster covering the shaky agreement the Rabin government had signed is beginning to crumble. The government said it was speaking to sheep, only to find out it was dancing with wolves, Hammer said.

The spokesman for the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza said that the prime minister was knowingly lying when he said that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was responsible for the murder of Hayim Mizrahi. The spokesman told our correspondent Gil Litman and several weeks ago, the council presented the prime minister with an intelligence document it came across which describes close cooperation between the PLO and Hamas.

The Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza rabbis' committee demands that the prime minister and the government spokesmen apologize and explain how they could be so naive, allowing the PLO murderers to take charge over the security of the Jewish settlers.

Fatah Squad Suspected of 2d Murder

TA1411061693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The Ramallah area terrorist cell, whose members admitted to murdering Bet El resident Hayim Mizrahi, are also suspect in the murder of soldier Yaron Hen three months ago. He was abducted after being picked up by the terrorists near his base north of Jerusalem, and his body was found in a burned-out car in the village of Baytuniya, near Ramallah. Both murders were carried out in similar fashion. In the continuing investigation of the suspects, it was found that their weapons have been used in

other attacks. The Army had detained a five-member Fatah cell from the Ramallah area on suspicion of killing Mizrahi two weeks ago. [passage omitted]

Senior Fatah officials in the territories are investigating which members of the organization activated the cell whose members murdered Hayim Mizrahi, and if any PLO leaders in Tunis were involved in the order. A Fatah leader in the territories says it is nearly impossible that the cell operated independently, without an order from the PLO officials. Deputy chair of the political committee in the territories, Husayn al-Shaykh, over the weekend called on all Fatah members to honor the Palestinian-Israeli accord and stop all hostile acts.

Senior defense establishment officials in Israel say if other attacks are carried out by Fatah, the continuation of the peace process will be endangered. These officials say such attacks cannot be ruled out since, they say, extremists and others within the PLO who oppose the autonomy accord with Israel may act on their own to sabotage the negotiations.

In the meantime, Israel's ambassador to Egypt has confirmed that the talks between Israel and the PLO will resume in Cairo tomorrow. Ambassador David Sultan said that eight participants would be taking part in the talks. He made the statement after meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The ambassador added that the Taba talks would resume at a later date, once an agreement had been reached between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Jewish Youth Stabbed in Jerusalem 12 Nov

TA1211150293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] About half an hour ago, a Jewish youth was stabbed in the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem's Old City. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that the youth was rushed to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. He was wounded in the chest and neck, and is said to be in fair condition. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the perpetrators, apparently two men, fled. The police have closed off the area and launched a search.

Two wanted members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's Red Eagle squad and an accomplice were captured this morning near the al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that gun ammunition and knives were found in their car. Among other things, they are suspected of having opened fire at Army patrols in the Gaza Strip on several occasions this week and of opening fire at a Border Police base in Rafah last night.

Three firebombs were thrown at Israeli cars near the Bayt Jala junction this afternoon. They shattered on the road, but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. Settlers in the Hebron area reported that their cars were pelted with stones this afternoon near the al-Duhayshah refugee camp, near the site on an Army outpost which was evacuated yesterday.

Soldiers Shoot Arab at Nabulus Roadblock

TA1211194293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] In Nabulus, soldiers shot and wounded an Arab in the head this evening after he refused to stop at a roadblock. The man reportedly came by taxi to the al-Ram junction north of Jerusalem, and got out at the roadblock. He then began running away, at which point the soldiers opened fire. [Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 12 November notes that the man "was shot and killed."]

In the Gaza Strip, the head of the Popular Front Red Eagle terror group in the Rafah area fled overnight across the border to Egypt. This is according to slogans painted on walls in the area today. Two other members of the Red Eagles were arrested this morning close to the al-Burayj refugee camp.

Three hundred Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters demonstrated in Gaza today against the peace process to mark two months since the signing of the Israel-PLO agreement.

Three Palestinians Wounded by Israeli Soldiers

NC1311214393 Paris AFP in English 1707 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 13 (AFP)—Israeli soldiers shot and wounded three Palestinians Saturday [13 November] in the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian officials said.

Two were wounded in Bayt Hanun and one in Gaza City, after they threw stones at Israeli patrols, the officials said.

Meanwhile, some 200 students supporting the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) demonstrated in the Jabalia refugee camp in the strip against the PLO-Israeli accord on limited Palestinian autonomy, signed in Washington on September 13.

A general strike paralysed the Gaza Strip Saturday, called by HAMAS in protest at the accord.

All stores were closed and few cars were on the roads as most Palestinians obeyed the strike call.

HAMAS, a fierce rival of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, warned that all those who ignored the strike call would be "severely punished."

Islamic militants threw stones at several vehicles and shops which remained open in Khan Yunus and Rafah Saturday, the Palestinian sources said.

HAMAS has vowed to pursue its armed struggle against Israel.

Bet El Arab Wounded by Settlers; Protest Held

TA1411062393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] An Arab resident of the territories was seriously wounded last night, apparently from shots fired by Jewish settlers, next to a poultry farm near Bet El. He was treated on the spot and taken to the Ramallah Hospital. The incident occurred when a group of Bet El residents tried to set on fire the poultry farm where Hayim Mizrahi was abducted and murdered two weeks ago. The police and Army are investigating where the Arab was shot while trying to prevent the settlers from starting the fire.

The body of a Palestinian murdered two days ago has been found in a quarry near the Qalandiyah refugee camp. The police said Army are investigating if 38-year-old Ibrahim al-'Amali was killed on suspect of cooperating with Israel. In Hebron, a firebomb was thrown last night at an Israeli Army patrol; no one was hurt and there was no damage.

Several hundred residents of the Jewish quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem demonstrated last night. They were protesting government policy. The protesters carried torches and marched towards the Christian Quarter, where soldier Katri'el Lerner was stabbed on Friday. He was taken to Hadassah Hospital, where he underwent surgery and is now said to be recovering.

Jewish Settlers Stone Arabs in Hebron 15 Nov

TA1511091393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Jewish settlers this morning threw stones at Arab cars in the vicinity of Hebron and at the city's approaches. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that several Arabs were wounded by stones and glass shards. The settlers escaped from all the sites before the security forces arrived.

Al-Majali on King's Upcoming Cairo, U.S. Visits

NC1311082193 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd- al-Salam al-Majali, in Amman, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] We have Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali with us on the line from Amman. Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Majali] Thank you.

[Husayn] His Majesty King Husayn is scheduled to visit Washington and Cairo to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton and President Husni Mubarak. Could you tell us about the nature of these two visits?

[Al-Majali] Indeed, His Majesty King Husayn always tries earnestly and wholeheartedly to eliminate any obstacles obstructing the Middle East peace process. This remains his nature and I believe it always will be. When he sees the chance to take a step to eliminate obstacles, he earnestly sets about it. His meeting with President Husni Mubarak will be a good one, God willing, and will take place soon. It represents one of the necessary steps to serve peace. Egypt's role in the peace process is recognized and known to everybody. Thus, close and sincere cooperation between his majesty and his excellency the president is needed to help the peace process reach stages of success that could secure the peoples' rights in the region.

[Husayn] What about the scheduled meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton?

[Al-Majali] No date has been set, but I believe his majesty said it might take place early in January, the time set for his majesty's medical checks at the clinic he occasionally frequents.

[Husayn] Recent media reports have mentioned the signing of a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel. What do you have to say about this?

[Al-Majali] Often, and for specific reasons, several balloons are released here and there to distract the people. We have announced that an agenda was agreed upon and signed by Jordan and Israel. The agenda includes several items, one of which says the two sides should sit down together to discuss the mechanism [last word in English] needed to tackle all these issues and set a timetable to implement them. All this is stipulated in the agenda. But we have had no chance to discuss these issues in depth, because the bilateral negotiations in Washington have virtually stopped. We are waiting for a new date to be set to resume the negotiations and enter into a serious discussion of all the items on the agenda. As for the so-called peace agreement, words are used here and there without clear definition. If we are discussing a peace treaty, the agenda signed between us stipulates that such a treaty will be signed when a solution is found to all the items on the agenda, including a comprehensive solution involving all the Arab parties, a solution for the refugees issue, water, territories, etc. When a solution is found to all these issues, we believe there will be a peace treaty, that is, all the tracks will have reached their finishing line. But, say a solution and agreement are reached over the water issue, for example, in the interest of both parties, it will be put into practice. Would we call this a peace agreement or a water agreement? It is up to the individual to call it what he likes.

[Husayn] I hope your known frankness will permit me to move to another issue. Media reports have also mentioned that a meeting was held between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. What is your comment?

[Al-Majali] As I told you, we are negotiating and sitting together with the Israeli delegation for discussions. His Highness Prince Hasan met [Peres] in broad daylight at the White House. We are not ashamed of meeting with the Israeli side. But occasionally, such reports are floated to serve specific goals of which we are not aware.

[Husayn] Concerning inter-Arab reconciliation, some are looking forward to the meeting between King Husayn and President Mubarak. How does Jordan view this issue now?

[Al-Majali] From the first moment, even since the Gulf war, Jordan has extended its unstained hand to all the brothers in the region. Jordan believes the cloud that has overshadowed the Arab nation has gone and that the Arabs must return to sit together and show solidarity. We are going through a delicate stage, especially as the new world order will impose a particular order on the region. If the Arabs have no close ties and disagree, something that is against their interests will be dictated to them. But when they agree, reconcile, and show solidarity, they will become a fundamental part of and will shape this order.

[Husayn] The recent election in Jordan generated broad Arab and world reaction. How do you view the future of democracy in Jordan in light of the results of the election, which was praised?

[Al-Majali] Democracy in Jordan is something basic. Naturally, everything needs time to grow, that is, there is no limit to democracy. Democracy will remain a vital issue and will not end at a particular time. It will continue to grow. The election marked one of these steps. It was completely fair. The objective was to get a parliament that truly represents the people's views, that is, to have real representatives of the people from all the political trends—from the left, right, and center to reflect the way things truly are. I believe the results reflect the opinion of the Jordanian people from all the political trends, from the extreme left to the extreme right, and almost reflect their true size and number.

[Husayn] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, thank you very much and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Majali] Thank you.

King's Interview With Paris Radio Detailed

JN1111201993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Excerpts] In an interview with Radio L'Orient in Paris, His Majesty King Husayn has reaffirmed that a peace treaty with Israel will come eventually, noting that there are scores of pressing questions that are still unresolved. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

In response to a question on Jordanian-Palestinian relations, his majesty the king described these relations as special. However, he noted, these relations were influenced by the attempts of many parties to harm them, to sow the seeds of skepticism about them, and to portray Jordan's position, which supports the Palestinians to enable them to regain their rights on their national soil, as a manifestation of Jordanian ambitions.

His majesty added: The relations between us and the Palestinians are interconnected. Our constant position has been a position of backing and support for them. It has been our duty, and it remains our duty, to do our utmost to support them.

His majesty noted that Jordan's signing of a Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement was not meant only to address Jordanian issues, but also to enhance the Palestinian's chance to obtain their rights.

Regarding the potential prospects for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, his majesty the king said: We will leave this for the future, and see what the people will decide under circumstances in which they can express their own wishes freely; that is, when they attain full freedom. Hence, any agreement on any formula right now is premature. It would recreate the previous experiences that failed in the Arab world. There is ample evidence to corroborate our argument in this regard. Consequently, the efforts to build a common future must start from the grass roots up so that it may be immune to any upheavals. This is necessary to forestall any future setback. Our position is clear and frank. We are on the side of the Palestinians, we support them in every way we can. We hope that with the passage of time, this future will be built on solid grounds. [passage omitted]

Hasan Urges Government To Devise Peace Concepts

JN1311170993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan visited the Prime Ministry this afternoon. He was received by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. His royal highness listened to a comprehensive review by the prime minister of domestic, Arab, and international issues.

His royal highness spoke about how he envisions the need for the government to crystallize several concepts that have to do with the peace process and related affairs. These concepts include the Jordanian view of the peace negotiations in the next phase, particularly Jordan's view of the concept of a just and comprehensive peace, comprehensive security, and the question of refugees.

His royal highness said the Jordanian negotiators should concentrate on the need to treat the countries participating in the peace process equally, respect national rights, and work to highlight the rights of the countries and peoples of the region by decreasing the prevailing differences and variation in treating the countries and peoples of the region.

His royal highness said human development must include the human being, his needs, and natural rights. Also, his resources should be developed in a way that makes the human being the target of peace. If man does not believe in the concrete dividends of peace, peace will lose its meaning and viability, he said.

His royal highness spoke in detail about Jordan's principled, constant stance toward the question of refugees. He said one of the tasks of the Jordanian negotiators should be to stress the rights of the refugees, in all their meanings and dimensions.

His royal highness underscored the need to crystallize Jordanian formulas and initiatives on coordination between the Arab parties to the peace process in order to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs.

[Boltanski] So, in your discussions with Israel, the refugee question is the priority?

[Hasan] We are covering all subjects, but are concentrating on the impact of the interim arrangement on us, the Jordanians. We are being asked to lend our support to this agreement. But how? Before we can answer that question, we must clarify a number of details on customs tariffs, trade, banks... There is a fear that the powerful Israeli economy, with the backing of the West, will be further boosted by international aid granted in the framework of the peace agreement. [Boltanski] Does Jordan have the feeling that it is being kept on the sidelines of the process?

[Hasan] That is the question. In 1975, Syria, Egypt, and Jordan signed trade agreements with Europe, well before Israel. But ultimately, it is Israel that has received more benefits from the EC.

[Boltanski] Do you fear the emergence of a new Israeli-Palestinian entity which could pose a threat to the Jordanian economy?

[Hasan] We are anxious to create a regional market which takes account of existing imbalances between the Israeli economy and the economies of the neighboring states.

How can we envisage investing in Israel without a reciprocal move? People always speak of the Arab boycott but forget the difficulties faced by goods which travel from east to west. It would be suicidal for the Arab countries to lift their boycott against Israel and receive nothing in exchange. We must have the feeling that the Gaza-Jericho accord is not the end, but the beginning of the process. I fear that the economic progress we are promised is being used as a panacea or alternative for peace.

[Boltanski] Are the Palestinians keeping you informed about their talks with the Israelis?

[Hasan] (laughs) The Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation document, which was discussed over a month ago in Amman, still has not been finalized. We still have not together looked at security matters. We are helping to train the Palestinian police, but we are not involved in discussions on its future role. We are wasting time. We want to see better cooperation with the Palestinians.

[Boltanski] Is the Jordan-Palestinian confederation still a topical issue?

[Hasan] I believe that cooperation is possible between the two banks of the Jordan. We are moving in this direction, slowly but surely. But it is important not to miss any step. We will not discuss a confederation with Gaza and Jericho before having defined the customs tariffs between us, and Jordan's contribution to the administration of the territories.

[Boltanski] The fundamentalists suffered losses at the election. Does their model of society no longer appeal to the people?

[Hasan] It is interesting to note that nine out of the 11 Palestinians elected to represent the Islamic Action Front are refugees from 1948. Remember that the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principle mentions the displaced persons only (in 1967). If you were a refugee in 1948, living in a camp and you felt excluded from the peace process, what would your reaction be? There is a working party on refugees, but only in a multilateral framework. Everybody knows that these discussions are purely academic.

Hasan: 'Much Work' Before Israeli Peace Treaty

BR1211123293 Paris LIBERATION in French 12 Nov p 16

[Interview with Jordanian Crown Prince Bin-Talal Hasan by Christophe Boltanski in Amman; date not given: "Amman, The Refugees At The Heart Of The Process"—first paragraph is LIBERATION introduction]

[Text] The heir to the throne, King Husayn's younger brother, initially critical of the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, now approves this "spectacular step." For the past week it has been Jordan's turn to fuel all kinds of rumors on a new breakthrough in the peace process. On Wednesday evening, before a group of foreign journalists, he refused to confirm the imminent signing of a peace treaty with Israel.

[Hasan] There is still much work to be done, and as I said in Washington, in the presence of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, the less the publicity and the fewer the cameras, the better it will proceed.

[Boltanski] The Israeli press confirms that everything is in place. Yasir 'Arafat has announced the imminence of this agreement. Why, suddenly, all these rumors?

[Hasan] Yasir 'Arafat was contacted in Brussels and he denied having made this statement. (laughs) I suggest that you refer to the words of His Majesty. A process is underway. It certainly will not reach a conclusion tomorrow, or even next week. I can neither confirm nor deny the current news. But, in a peace process, it is only normal for meetings to take place.

[Boltanski] Can a normalization of relations between the two countries be envisaged?

[Hasan] Today, the ambassadors to the United Nations are speaking of cancelling the resolutions hostile to Israel adopted since 1948. What does this mean? Is the right of return and compensation for Palestinian refugees to be seen as hostile to Israel? Is it unfriendly to defend the right to self-determination or to speak of global peace? The answer is no.

[Boltanski] By appearing publicly alongside Shim'on Peres in Washington last month, did you break a taboo? Can we expect to see similar meetings in the future?

[Hasan] No doubt. But it is not a question of meeting for the sake of meeting. The aim is to make progress.

[Boltanski] You found the handshake between 'Arafat and Rabin "theatrical." Did it not nevertheless change the face of the Near East? [Hasan] That is a question the public must answer. If you walk down the street today and ask people how the peace agreement of 13 September changed their lives, do you really think you will get a positive reply? I admit a spectacular step has been taken. But how solid is this agreement in the long term?

[Boltanski] What are the priorities in your negotiations with Israel?

[Hasan] We must achieve a peace that takes account of the populations. Jordan has welcomed three waves of refugees, in 1948, in 1967, and in 1991. Some say that 31 percent of the total Palestinian population live in Jordan. We would like the Israelis and potential donor countries to look more closely at this problem. It is all very well to speak of building a canal between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea. But how will that help the people? Many international companies want to invest in the Middle East. But look at the slowdown in the market in Amman today. The local investor is worried.

Hizballah Leader Warns France on Algerian Arrests

LD1211194293 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1800 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] In Beirut, Shaykh Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of the pro-Iranian Hizballah has given France a warning. According to Fadlallah, the arrests of Algerian Islamists is against French interests in the Arabic world and in the Islamic world. This threat is not even disguised. Alain Menargues reports.

[Menargues] Islamists have opposed the violence of the Algerian authorities, and, naturally, violence can lead to the killing of foreigners, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah explained when he talked about the situation in Algeria in his Friday sermon. The spiritual leader of the Lebanese Hizballah added that through its arrests of Islamic fundamentalists, France is supporting Algiers, which, I quote, will not serve its interests and its good relations with the Muslim world. Another religious leader, Shaykh (Na'im Kasem Nahamani), the cultural counsellor at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut who was very active during the development of Hizballah and the taking of hostages in Lebanon, was holding a post in Algiers when the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and clandestine armed groups were created, and he left when Algiers and Tehran broke off diplomatic relations.

Shelling in South Reported

NC1411073593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has announced that at 0220 today, one of its groups attacked the enemy posts in Bayt Yahun, Rshaf, and Bra'shit with machine guns and artillery. The fortifications of the three posts were destroyed and numerous enemy soldiers were killed and injured.

Since 0700 this morning, the Zionist enemy forces have been shelling the outskirts of the townships of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and al-Qa'qa'iyah, and the Litani River valley with heavy artillery.

In the area of al-Shumariyah and 'Alman, the sounds of heavy and light machine guns can be heard.

Reports from the south say Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Mazra'at al-Hamra', Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Frun, Wadi al-Saluqi, and the Litani River are under violent shelling from the field artillery positioned at enemy posts in Qal'at al-Shaqif. In addition, 'Alman, al-Shumariyah, and al-Zaffatah are also being shelled. This shelling is accompanied by extensive raking operations of these areas.

Operations Against Israeli, SLA Forces Described

NC1411131493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Resistance men have been carrying out a series of operations against the Israeli occupation forces and the agents [South Lebanese Army—SLA] since early this morning. The Islamic Resistance announced that it attacked two enemy posts in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah at 0715. According to the resistance statement, a clash lasted for 15 minutes and many enemy individuals in the two posts were killed or wounded. The statement adds that the Israeli forces later shelled the periphery of the deserted Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah. [passage omitted]

At noon today, the resistance announced the martyrdom of 'Ali Hijazi in the attack against the Israeli-Lahdist positions in Bayt Yahun and Bra'shit.

Israeli Shelling in South Reported

NC1411205393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] According to our correspondent in south Lebanon, the deserted army barracks in al-Nabatiyah came under continuous Israeli artillery barrage for 30 minutes at around 2020 today. In the meantime, Israeli forces in Tallat 'Ali al-Tahir raked the periphery of Kafr Tibnit, al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, and Jabal 'Ali al-Tahir with large-and medium-caliber machine guns.

Prime Minister al-Hariri Leaves for Damascus

NC1211132993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Damascus this afternoon for talks with Syrian officials on Lebanese and regional developments.

Interior Minister Mirhij Leaves for Qatar

NC1411161393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij left Beirut for Doha today on an official visit to Qatar at the invitation of Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani. He will deliver a message from President Ilyas al-Hirawi for Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani.

Explosion Reported at Sidon Liquor Store

NC1311212293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] According to reports from Sidon, the explosion that was heard at 2150 today occurred in a liquor store owned by 'Ali Muhyi- al-Din al-Buji in the city's al-Quds Square. The explosion caused no significant damage.

Al-Asad Receives Clinton Note on Peace Efforts

JN1511103193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0950 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 15 Nov (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton on the U.S. efforts to establish a comprehensive peace in the region and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region at the beginning of next month.

The message was delivered to Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning when he received U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross.

U.S. Mideast Peace Policy, Rabin Visit Viewed

JN1411103493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH editorializes on the 23d anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement under President Hafiz al-Asad. Under the headline "16 November: A Basis for Pan-Arab Action," the paper says: Since the early hours of the of the Corrective Movement, leader al-Asad began to concentrate efforts on rectifying the Arab situation and mobilizing the huge Arab resources to serve the Arab nation's interests.

AL-BA'TH stresses that the objective of this pan-Arab effort by the leader of the Corrective Movement is to restore the usurped Arab rights and to ensure the future of the Arab nation. The paper also stresses that Syria will continue to work with all brothers to develop an Arab position capable of restoring the usurped Arab rights which Israel is trying to obliterate.

The paper stresses that events and time have proved that Israel, which talks alot about peace, is working absolutely contrary to peace. The latest evidence to this has been Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington, where his talks with U.S. officials focused on the acquisition of more sophisticated weapons, not on how to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH indicates that the U.S. position, which, to a great extent, has been in line with the Israeli position, has drawn substantial disapproval by Arab quarters and peace-loving forces. The paper asks: To what extent will the official U.S. position contribute to the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace in the region? Or will it encourage Israel to show more inflexibility, intransigence, and persistence in rejecting the UN resolutions on which the U.S. peace initiative is based?

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says that pushing the peace process toward the set objectives requires removing obstacles and difficulties, especially the continued intransigence of the party that rejects the principles of the peace process and the bases of a just, comprehensive peace.

Under the headline "A Full, Comprehensive Peace," TISHRIN discusses the U.S. position on the Middle East peace process. It indicates that U.S. President Bill Clinton is now more convinced than ever that there can be no peace in this region without Syria. In this context, TISHRIN stresses the peace in which Syria believes and to which it adheres—a peace that is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of giving back the territory in return for peace.

TISHRIN says: When Syria stresses its commitment to the principles of the peace process and its terms of reference, and when it calls for activating the U.S. role in this direction, it in fact wants to thwart the Israeli objectives and maneuvers, and to achieve the peace aspired by the Arabs and the world.

TISHRIN also discusses the Israeli stands and proposals that obstruct the peace process. It says: Syria has cautioned against these evasive stands and affirmed that its interest in peace does not mean that it will cede its national rights and the pan-Arab rights to Israel in order to appease it.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria affirms now that it wants a just, comprehensive peace, and that it wants all the territory back in return for a full peace. Any attempt to circumvent this Syrian position means an evasion of peace.

U.S. Supply of F-15's to Israel 'Puzzling'

JN1311082093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN editorializes on the Middle East peace process, especially the question of achieving progress on the Syrian track. The paper notes that such progress is one of the most important points in the effort to activate the peace process.

TISHRIN points out Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's attempts to freeze efforts on the Syrian track, and notes the U.S. Administration's emphasis of the need to achieve progress on all tracks with the aim of achieving a comprehensive peace in the region.

TISHRIN says: However, what calls for concern is the U.S. Administration's agreement to supply Israel with new shipments of sophisticated U.S. weapons, especially F-15 fighter bombers under the pretext of helping it ease the risks of peace and to encourage it to go ahead with the peace process. The paper continues: Peace does not need sophisticated weapons. It needs good faith, work, determination, and consideration of the bases on which it should be built if it is to last. There is no need for the Israeli negotiator to go to the peace negotiations with his rifle on his shoulder and his gun on the table. This is because the road to peace is much easier than the picture they are trying to give. The bases of peace are clear.

TISHRIN adds: What is also puzzling is the call on the Arabs to define their stand on peace. This is as if all the commitments to peace that have been declared by Arab parties, especially Syria, are not sufficient to convince the U.S. sponsor that the Arabs are really eager and fully ready to achieve peace, on condition that it be a just, comprehensive peace that is built on international legitimacy.

TISHRIN explains that President Hafiz al-Asad's frequent assertions that Syria is willing to see a just, comprehensive peace prevailing do not need an explanation or interpretation. Syria means what it says. Syria is capable of meeting its obligations on condition that others show commitment toward the requirements of peace and that they work toward this end.

Israel 'Must' Alter Stance if Process To Continue

NC1411222693 Paris AFP in English 2059 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, Nov 14 (AFP)—Israel must alter its stance if the stalled peace talks with Syria are to resume in Washington, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam told foreign reporters on Sunday.

"Israel must reconsider its position in such a way that the Washington discussions can be resumed," he said, adding that the international community should pressure the Jewish state into changing.

"To date, we have not heard a single word from Israel saying it accepts a complete withdrawal" from occupied Arab territories, Khaddam said, reiterating Syria's position on "total peace against total withdrawal" as well as the need for "comprehensive peace."

"The international community must pressure Israel so that it respects United Nations resolutions and the Madrid (peace conference) formula," he insisted.

The terms of reference at the October 1991 Madrid conference, the framework for the Washington talks, are based on the principle of the exchange of land for peace, along with U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

"Advancement towards peace cannot be one-sided. The Arabs have moved more than enough. The Israeli party must move," Khaddam insisted.

No date has been set for the resumption of the Washington talks. Syria insists on maintaining the negotiations' bilateral framework in Washington, while Israel is seeking secret talks to break the current deadlock over the Golan Heights, which the Jewish state seized in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

Syria has demanded a pledge from Israel that it will withdraw completely from the Golan Heights while Israel wants a commitment from Syria for "total peace" with open borders and diplomatic ties before debating the scope of a withdrawal from the heights.

"If there is no serious progress on the part of the Israelis towards accepting a complete withdrawal from our occupied territories, it's hard to envisage a resumption of the negotiations since they are not an aim in themselves but only a means to attaining a settlement," Khaddam said.

He added that in two years the negotiations had not resolved any problems.

"Nobody in the region wants war ... But, of course, if the doors to peace are tightly shut, the region will once again face instability," he warned.

Earlier, Syrian newspapers slammed what they described as a U.S. "bias" toward Israel, which they said was demonstrated during Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington.

Following talks with Rabin in Washington Friday, U.S. President Bill Clinton said he had "renewed America's unshakeable pledge to maintain and enhance Israel's qualitative security edge."

He also urged Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to give a clear green light to peace.

On Saturday, Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas said Israel was mistaken if it thought the Arabs could be forced into giving up their land and rights and accused it of trying to derail the peace process.

Envoy to U.S.: 'No Secret Channels' With Israel

NC1311183993 Beirut Future Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Report by correspondent Amal Mudallali from Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] During the joint news conference held in the White House, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called on President Bill Clinton to help arrange secret talks away from the spotlight between Israel and those whom he called its partners in the effort to reach a comprehensive peace. [passage omitted citing more of Rabin's remarks]

Rabin's words were interpreted here as being a signal that he wants to deal with Syria outside the framework of the traditional peace negotiations and that he wants President Clinton's help in convincing Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to accept such proposals and stop opposing them.

But when Future Television Network asked Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim for his views on Rabin's proposal, he said that Syria categorically rejects direct contacts and back channels because our talks with Israel are held through rounds of negotiations and through U.S. envoys between one round and another. Ambassador al-Mu'allim stressed that there are no secret channels between Syria and Israel. [passage omitted]

Talas: Israel Avoiding 'Core' of Peace Process

JN1311174393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander-in-chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, a celebration was held at the Women's Military Academy this morning on the occasion of graduating a new class of students.

Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander-in-chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister attended the celebration on behalf of the president. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Mustafa Talas delivered a speech in which he began by conveying greetings and wishes for the success of the graduates in their military careers. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Talas then spoke about the peace process in the region. He stressed that Israel has put in place obstacles to circumvent the core of the peace process and its principles, based on the need to implement the relevant international resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

He said Israel is mistaken if it believes that through its current policy it can realize the solution it wants, stressing that peace has bases and principles represented in the implementation of UN resolutions and withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. He said this was emphasized by leader al-Asad when he said: We are with a just peace in the region, within the UN framework and in accordance with its charter and resolutions—peace that restores the occupied land to its owners, and gives the usurped rights to their legitimate owners. [passage omitted]

Rabin Washington Visit, Talks Assessed

JN1311164593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Is it reasonable for Israel to depend on the United States to impose a viewpoint that conflicts with the world's viewpoint, including that of the United States, about how to reach peace in the Middle East, even if its viewpoint might destroy, not make, peace?

Is it logical for Washington to accept something that conflicts with its belief in the mechanism for making peace and the contents of peace, just in order to appease Israel and satisfy Israeli ambitions to impose its hegemony and control, and to expand at the expense of the Arab land and rights?

We do not think anyone would expect this or justify it if it happens, although Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did all he could during his talks with the U.S. President and U.S. officials in the U.S. capital in order to reach that objective. Rabin went to Washington to get full support for his method of dealing with, or, more accurately, manipulating the cause of peace in the region. He was more than satisfied with the verbal support expressed by the U.S. Vice President when he said: Our strong friendship with Israel is a reality to which all parties should adapt themselves, our commitment to Israel is stronger than any other time in the past, and Israel's contribution in serving our interests is on the rise.

In addition to this strong verbal support, Rabin asked for a payment for a peace that has not been realized, and to which he did not meet any requisite. He was promised much military and economic support.

We might understand all these demands by Rabin, but what we, as Arabs, do not and will not understand is the fact that Washington responds to Rabin's demands, including demands that conflict with Washington's declared conviction about the peace process. Washington's relinquishment of its conviction concerning peace making in the Middle East, as it had been crystallized in the Madrid conference, and its acceptance of the Israeli manipulating method concerning this issue, means Washington is abandoning the peace cause in this region, because Israel's practices will not lead to peace.

We do not think it is unclear to the U.S. Administration that Israel, despite all its claims about peace, has done nothing real and substantial for the sake of peace. While in Washington, Rabin asked Syria to embark on what he calls open diplomacy, which means preparing Syrian public opinion with specific initiatives in order to prove Syrian readiness to establish peace with Israel. What has this Rabin done in return, even within the framework of the open diplomacy he advocates? Has he launched a single initiative to prepare Israeli public opinion for the commitment Israel should make to the Arabs in return for peace with them? Has he prepared the Israelis for the stage of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories? Is he working on convincing the settlers that one day they should dismantle their settlements and leave them after withdrawal from the occupied territories? Has Rabin embarked on any of these measures or has he embarked on their outright contradictions? All the positions and deeds declared by Rabin since he assumed power aim to convince what is called the extreme Zionist right that he will be no less extreme than they are, whether in rejecting an end to the occupation of Arab territories, or concerning maintaining, or even expanding, settlement construction and settlements.

Is there anything in all these practices that satisfies the Arabs that Rabin and the Israelis have a serious desire to establish a just peace with them, and to return Arab rights in return for peace? Perhaps Rabin's demands that Washington must guarantee Israel's military and security advantage in the region, and must supply it with the most modern U.S. warplanes—and the promises to meet these demands—will satisfy Arab hearts concerning what they can expect in the time of the promised Israeli peace?

We do not deny Washington's friendship with Israel. We have suffered enough from this friendship that has been biased toward the Israeli falsehood at the expense of the Arab right for several decades. But if the Arabs are asked to adapt to this friendship, Washington should adapt to the commitments it made when it launched its current peace initiative. Washington should, in its capacity as the country that has the greatest international influence in the post-cold war world, take into consideration, while dealing with the Middle East peace, the interests of all peoples of the region, and its interests in the region in particular, and not only Israel's interests.

Elements 'Slandering' Damascus' Position Condemned

JN1111085393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Discussing the peace process, AL-BA'TH says: It pleases Syria when it sees the Palestinian Arab people gaining their rights. Syria has been at the forefront of those countries which placed their resources and people's energies and sacrificed the blood of its citizens for the sake of the Palestinian people's cause.

AL-BA'TH says: Syria has accepted these sacrifices as a pan-Arab obligation. And, because of this pan-Arab obligation, Syria welcomed the Palestinian leaders and people. So, what is the matter with those who in the past embraced the pan-Arab character of the cause? Why are they rejecting that cause now? What has happened to them, placing the Palestinian decision versus the pan-Arab character of the cause?

AL-BA'TH says: Syria is honored to side with the pan-Arab character of the battle, and not with the decision that abandons the cause, relinquishes rights, submits to Israeli dictates, departs from Arab coordination, and instigates the Palestinian against the Palestinian, thus allowing the Israelis to kill both.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria has never claimed the right to make decisions for the Palestinians. At the same time, however, it does not allow any one to force it to condone the relinquishment of Palestinian and Arab rights. Regardless of any circumstances, Syria will not become a promoter of the relinquishment proposals, a protector of Israel, and an executioner of those who oppose the agreements of collusion. The actions of those who try to cover their failure in persuading the Palestinian Arab people and their establishment with what they did by slandering Syria and accusing it of supporting the Palestinian opposition, constitute further capitulation to the enemy and an attempt to instigate it against the Palestinians who stick to their rights, land, dignity, and cause. It also means taking a stand against Syria, the lofty Arab fortress opposing submission and capitulation.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: These people will only reap one failure after the other. In the end, evil cunning will only harm those who promote it. Damned be their action. Their failure is clear and it can no longer be covered.

Arab League Chief, Envoy to Egypt Confer on Peace

NC1311171193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met with 'Isa Darwish, Syrian ambassador in Cairo and permanent representative to the Arab League, and reviewed the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas. After the meeting, the Syrian ambassador said that they discussed Arab reconciliation and the Arab League's efforts to achieve Arab reconciliation under the motto "Preservation of Arab national security and Arab interests." He said that they also reviewed developments in the peace process and U.S. President Clinton's statement at his news conference yesterday following his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Darwish pointed out that he explained to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid the Syrian position on the peace process. He stressed that Syria genuinely believes in a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in the region within the framework of the Madrid Conference formula. He noted that the occasional Israeli statements on refusal to withdraw completely from the Golan do not encourage optimism. He emphasized that the peace initiative based on the land-for-peace principle and international law represented in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 represent the right path to a permanent and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Darwish denied any secret talks between Syria and Israel, saying: We are not a clandestine organization but a sovereign state and we do not fear negotiating in public. He added: We insist on a just, comprehensive and permanent peace in accordance with the Madrid Conference formula. There is no reason to change this formula because we consider any change to be an Israeli attempt to subvert the Madrid Conference and evade the principles of international legitimacy and the peace process. He stressed that Syria believes in the peace process and voiced his hope that positive results would emerge in the future. He said: If Israel fails to put forward pledges that the talks will be useful, Syria will not attend the talks except on the basis of Israeli commitment to withdrawal from the Golan.

Discussing the Security Council resolution to step up sanctions against Libya, Darwish said that his country is not satisfied with this resolution. He said: We believe it shows haste on the part of the Security Council and opportunity should have been given to the Libyan Jamahiriyah to continue its cooperation with the United Nations to achieve the goals that serve the state. He noted that Libya demonstrated preparedness [for cooperation] with the United Nations and the Arab League to hand over the suspects in the Lockerbie incident to any party or fair international trial. He noted that it is

possible to form an international court anywhere except Britain, the United States, and France. He stressed that Syria condemns international terrorism in all its forms and that it cooperates with the United Nations and the Security Council in any area to achieve peace and justice among nations. He said that Syria approved Libya's request to convene an Arab League meeting because any meeting serves the Arabs.

Responding to a question on the recent meeting between Dr. 'Abd- al-Majid and the Turkish ambassador in Cairo, Darwish said: We received with satisfaction the Arab League General Secretariat's statement on this meeting and we are happy with the development of ties between Syria and Turkey. He also noted the recent visit to Damascus by the Turkish prime minister's first adviser and the statements he and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made, describing them as "positive and indicating that relations between the two countries are good." He said that Turkey is a Muslim, neighborly, and friendly country and we are proud of this friendship. He expressed his hope that relations would continue to develop between the two countries in the interest of both countries.

'Wide Gap' Between 'Arafat, Palestinians Seen

JN1211193093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Palestine Broadcast: unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers on the road of revolution and liberation: Palestinian popular reactions, led by the valiant intifadah-related activities in the occupied territories, have confirmed that there is a wide gap between the lofty Palestinian people and the leadership that signed the Gaza-Jericho accord. The signing of the accord's documents by the 'Arafat leadership and its decision to halt resistance operations against the occupation troops have not been supported by the Palestinian people. Still, the 'Arafat leadership does not want to acknowledge the existence of a dichotomy between its position and that of the masses and nationalist forces, as expressed by the intifadah and the 10 opposition factions. No one can deny that there is a wide gap between the Palestinian institutions and masses on the one hand and the 'Arafat leadership on the other. In the same vein, the Syrian leadership's perspective with regard to just and comprehensive peace conflicts with that of Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. This is an indisputable fact that has to be acknowledged.

Our Palestinian masses and their nationalist forces highly appreciate Arab Syria's position toward the cause of peace, as well as its firm calls for complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, and for restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people—the very rights that were trampled upon by the Gaza-Jericho accord.

In the course of their efforts to address current developments, our Palestinian people harbor strong feelings of gratitude to Arab Syria, and its struggler leader President Hafiz al-Asad, for its position. This has allowed Palestinian institutions and masses to freely express their views on the Gaza-Jericho accord. This position is a true reflection of democracy. Muzzling the intifadah heroes and preventing them from throwing stones has nothing to do with democracy.

Afghanistan

Cabinet Departs for Talks With Hekmatyar

LD1111174293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] An extraordinary Cabinet meeting chaired by esteemed Deputy Prime Minister Arsalan Rahmani was held this morning at the Prime Ministry palace.

The press department of the Prime Ministry reports that matters concerning the security situation, the flow of electricity to Kabul city, the opening of highways, and preparations for maintaining nationwide peace were comprehensively discussed and appropriate decisions were made.

At the end of the session the Cabinet went to Charasiab for talks with Golboddin Hekmatyar.

250 Civilians Said Killed in Tagab Fighting

LD1311192393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] In the fighting to the northeast of Kabul, 250 defenseless people have lost their lives so far and dozens have been injured. According to the Central News Unit from Kabul, in the past two weeks over 100,000 residents of the Tagab region have fled the area following the ongoing clashes in Afghanistan between the forces of the Hezb-e Eslami and the Defense Ministry; they are living in difficult conditions in the mountains surrounding Tagab.

The report adds: A number of the war refugees have crossed mountainous regions to reach the Kapisa and Parwan regions in northern Afghanistan. A number of other refugees have, on the other hand, due to the disruption of links between Kabul and Tagab and their physical weakness, taken shelter under difficult conditions.

Peace delegations have so far been unable to establish a cease- fire in the region and each of the fighting parties is blaming the other for the start of the fighting.

Government Forces Fire on Hekmatyar Strongholds

LD1411151093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan have opened fired on the trenches of the forces of Hezb-e Eslami in Naghlu area. A responsible source of the Defense Ministry told BAKHTAR that today missile and heavy weapon positions of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami were subjected to artillery attacks and an attempted offensive was foiled. The aggressor forces suffered heavy loss of life and material. The aggressors are retreating, the moral of members of Hekmatyar's party are (?weakening), and they are fleeing their positions.

Temporary Cease-Fire in Shirkhan Bandar

LD1411214993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] General Dostam's forces have launched new attacks in order to recapture the border town of Shirkhan Bandar. According to a Central News Unit dispatch from Kabul, sources affiliated to Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union] announced that General Dostam's forces, by attacking joint positions of Ettehad-e Eslami and Jam'iat-e Eslami [Islamic Society], captured the Aqtappa, Tarwiz, and Gozar regions near Shirkhan Bandar.

Also, the head of the press office of Afghanistan's Jonbesh-e Melli Eslami [National Islamic Movement] said: In the course of clashes yesterday, forces affiliated to this movement captured five armored vehicles and took 50 of Sayyaf's troops prisoner.

The latest report received indicates that the warring sides in Shirkhan Bandar have reached agreement to establish a temporary cease-fire.

The Central News Unit dispatch also reports that Tagab has remained the scene of intense clashes between Hezb-e Eslami forces and the Defense Ministry and Tagab Shura forces. This report says that during the past 24 hours Defense Ministry planes and helicopters heavily bombed positions of the Hezb-e Eslami forces.

Two Correspondents Released From Captivity

LD1511132893 Wellington Radio New Zealand International in English 1000 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] New Zealand journalist Terence White, who was captured a week ago in a combat zone east of Kabul in Afghanistan, has been freed. Mr. White, who was working for the French news agency AFP, and American John Jennings, Associated Press, were taken into captivity. Both are in good health, although Mr. Jennings was suffering from a shrapnel wound to his left foot.

The two journalists were captured close to where two main guerrilla factions and government forces have been fighting for the past two weeks.

Pakistani Envoy Concerned Over Fighting

BK1211125093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan Amir Usman has had a meeting with the Afghan prime minister, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, in Chahar Asiab. He conveyed deep concern of Pakistan over the recent fighting in the Sarowbi and Ghazni areas, in which considerable loss of life and property was reported. The ambassador called upon the concerned parties to settle their differences through negotiations.

Afghan prime minister appreciated Pakistan's concern for the welfare of the Afghan people and expressed the hope that the current conflict would be settled amicably.

* Hekmatyar Forces Holding Tagab

94P50028A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ahmad Muwaf faq Zaydan]

[Excerpts] Peshawar—Forces of the Hezb-e Eslami, led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, have been able to capture the strategic area of Tagab, which is 35 km east [direction as published] of the city of Sarobi on the main road between Kabul and Jalalabad. Eyewitnesses coming from the battleground yesterday told AL-HAYAH that the Hezb-e Eslami forces were advancing in the direction of the Nijrab region, which is under the control of former Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. They said that violent battles are going on in the Nijrab region, 60 km from the capital, Kabul.

One of the field commanders belonging to the prime minister's forces said to AL-HAYAH yesterday after sustaining a wound in the battles and being brought to Peshawar for treatment: "As of the hour that I left the battleground, there were four of our forces killed and eight wounded." He declared that the forces of Communist General Baba Khan, who abrogated his alliance with Najibollah in April last year to ally with Mas'ud, are the ones fighting against the Hezb-e Eslami forces. [passage omitted on public statements by various parties]

A high-level official in the Hezb-e Eslami, who preferred that his identity not be disclosed, described in a discussion with AL-HAYAH on the dimensions of the Hezb-e Eslami attacks that they are aimed at causing disarray and unrest in the Mas'ud stronghold and consequently tying him down in that stronghold. In addition, they may possibly be aimed at regaining Hezb-e Eslami members who had joined him last year when he captured the region, which had been under the Hezb-e Eslami's control. It seems that the attacks of commander Shafiqyar from Ghorband toward Panjshir, Mas'ud's stronghold, yesterday confirm this strategy, since Hezb- e Eslami sources have claimed that Jam'iyat-e Eslami fighters have joined their forces advancing in Ghorband.

A reliable source also disclosed that the main reason that motivated the Hezb-e Eslami to attack was "when intelligence reports reached the command in the Hezb that Mas'ud's forces were moving with his tanks in the direction of Bagrami, southwest of Kabul [location as published]. The Hezb- e Eslami camp utilized this recent weak point and attacked Mas'ud's positions in Tagab, which are suffering from a lack of men and equipment." [passage omitted on reports by AFP, Western diplomats, and Pakistani relief officials]

* Hekmatyar Urges 'Afghan Arabs' to Join Him

94P50027A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad, London, Cairo—Provisional Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has called for the "Afghan Arabs" who face expulsion from Pakistan to join him in his principal headquarters south of Kabul. This came in a statement given yesterday by a spokesman for the Hezb-e Eslami led by Hekmatyar.

The spokesman, who gave his statement yesterday at the Hezb-e Eslami headquarters in Peshawar, mentioned that the decision was left up to the new Pakistani Government in regard to the date and manner in which the "Afghan Arabs" leave Pakistani territory.

It is expected that more than 3,000 "Afghan Arabs" will receive orders to leave Pakistan within the next few months, since it was decided that a special committee formed by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto would look into their situation.

In Cairo, Egyptian security authorities are discussing sending a high-level commission to Peshawar to conduct new negotiations with the Pakistani Government to find a formula enabling Egypt to receive news about the refugee radical groups there. Cairo welcomed the decision of the Pakistani prime minister to expel the Egyptians and Libyans working in the nongovernmental Afghan relief agencies after some of them became mixed up in terrorism cases in their countries.

An Egyptian security official considered Benazir Bhutto's decision to be an important step toward the extradition of the fugitive suspects in Pakistan whose implication in planning and mounting terrorist operations taking place in Egypt has been confirmed.

In addition, Hekmatyar emphasized his stand regarding ending the continual fighting currently between his forces and those of Afghan President Borhanuddin Rabbani.

He said in a communique issued day before yesterday that the fighting is a part of a great international plot targeted against a real peace."

Hekmatyar added that his adversaries "are still being financed and supported by Moscow." He said, "We have witnessed this conspiracy in the events of Algiers and in the agreements that were concluded by the PLO and Zionism."

Hekmatyar also warned Seyyed Ahmed Gilani of the consequences of striving to be prime minister. "Gilani is a wise man, but Rabbani is the one who is encouraging him. He should not forget that the rest of the mojahedin leaders do not support him." Hekmatyar declared that he will not let go of the prime minister's post unless Rabbani vacates the presidency at the same time. He said, "If one of us goes, the second must also go."

India

Election of New Pakistani President Welcomed

BK1411041493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Commentary by Suresh Chopra, All India Radio Islamabad correspondent]

[Text] Even as Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari is sworn in as Pakistan's ninth president later this morning, there can be little doubt in anybody's mind that the real architect of his victory is his leader, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister and chief of the party he has belonged to throughout his political career, the Pakistan People's Party. It was Ms. Bhutto who unleashed a trend of events precisely a year back in November 1992 with a long march against the Nawaz Sharif government, which after a series of twists and turns has resulted in the ouster of her two main detractors—Mr. Nawaz Sharif and Mr. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the former president.

With her own installation as prime minister last month and positioning of a closest confidant and most loyal follower in the presidency a few hours from now, it can be rightly said that the wheel has now come full circle for Ms. Bhutto. All have agreed that her choice of Sardar Farooq Leghari for the key post of president is one of the best decisions Ms. Bhutto has made in her colorful political career. He is young—just 53 years old—and comes across as an urbane level-headed man free from any deep biases and prejudices.

Sardar Leghari belongs to the Baloch Leghari tribe of Dera Ghazi Khan in the Saraiki belt of southern Punjab and, therefore, as Mrs. Bhutto pointed in her triumphant victory speech over nationwide television and radio last night, ideally suited for the presidency because he can speak almost all the principal languages of Pakistan. He is expected to deal with matters of state with pragmatism and fairness that should make him acceptable to the defeated Nawaz Sharif camp with the passage of time. But there is no denying that the installation of Sardar Farooq as president will give Ms. Bhutto's government a much-needed boost and stability. Heading, as she does, a fragile coalition government and with the dreaded eighth amendment under which both she and Mr. Nawaz Sharif once lost their jobs still on the statute book, what Ms. Bhutto needed most at this hour was not having to tackle a troublesome president.

With Sardar Farooq in the presidency, Ms. Bhutto can now get on with the business of governance without having to look over her shoulder at every step. It also means that she now has no excuse to fall back on as she did during her earlier stint as prime minister to explain away any nonperformance on her part. The immediate fallout of Sardar Farooq's elevation to the highest office, however, will be that he will not kick up any dust as another incumbent might have as Ms. Bhutto goes about amending or dismantling the controversial eighth amendment of the Constitution in her bid to consolidate her position as prime minister. Nor should the Sharif camp create much trouble on this account, because with Sardar Farooq as president, there is hardly any possibility of (?misusing) the eighth amendment to remove Ms. Bhutto at a later stage and thereby installing Mr. Sharif in office. So, Mr. Sharif should not have any qualms or regrets on seeing this hated piece of legislation go. It is in this sense that Sardar Farooq's election will give the much- needed fresh turn to the political scene in Pakistan.

Further on Hazratbal Shrine Siege Developments

'No Change' in Situation

BK1311161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, there is no change in the situation at the Hazratbal Shrine. Armed militants remained holed up inside the shrine while the security cordon continues outside. The chief official negotiator, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, said his talks with the militants are making steady progress. Some prominent persons are also helping in resolving the tangle. The situation throughout the valley remained peaceful. Curfew today is confined only to the localities around the Hazratbal Shrine.

Two Occupants Surrender

BK1411154493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, two more persons came out of the Hazratbal Shrine last night and gave themselves up to the security forces. They were later handed over to the Jammu and Kashmir Police. With this, the number of persons who have come out of the shrine since the 15th of last month has gone up to 12.

The security forces made a major haul of explosives and arms from two militant hideouts in (Adiana) and (Parimpura) villages on the outskirts of Srinagar city yesterday. It included 40 kg of explosives. A militant was arrested.

Four Said To Flee Hazratbal

BK1411164293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1637 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, November 14 (AFP)—Four men fled from Hazratbal as a Kashmir leader spearheading protests against the army siege of the mosque Sunday ruled out further talks to end the standoff at the holy shrine.

An Indian army commander in charge of the siege of Hazratbal identified three of the alleged escapees as Muslim militants and the fourth as a civilian, adding that two of them had fled the barricaded shrine late Saturday night.

"Two of the militants who escaped from a rear exit of Hazratbal where militants aged 19 and 20 years," said Brigadier S.P.S. Kanwar. The civilian came out on Sunday while food was being sent in, he added.

Some 50 armed Muslim militants and 60 to 70 pilgrims have been holed up since October 15 inside Hazratbal, which houses a single hair Kashmiri Muslims believe comes from the beard of the Prophet Mohammad.

Kanwar said all four surrendered to soldiers surrounding the mosque and added that three escaped Muslim secessionists were being interrogated.

The escapes take to 14 the number of people who have come out so far from Hazratbal, located on the banks of the scenic Dal Lake on the outskirts of this state summer capital.

The Hazratbal crisis meanwhile deepened Sunday as a leader of the All-Party Kashmir Freedom Conference said the umbrella group of 27 militant and political groups was suspending talks with the Indian authorities.

The conference had been negotiating to end the Hazratbal standoff, and its leader Maulana Abbass Ansari said talks would resume only after officers from Kashmir's Muslim-dominated police department [word indistinct] the army at the mosque.

"The government should first allow religious heads to go inside the shrine and see the holy relic and replace the army with Kashmir police before holding talks," Ansari said after a meeting of forum leaders.

Ansari, who also heads the regional Kashmir Liberation Council party, accused state authorities of not sending in food to those inside Hazratbal and said the forum will not tolerate the government stand.

A court has ordered the authorities not to starve those inside Hazratbal. Ansari asserted the militants and civilians were denied food on Saturday or Sunday.

"With the rigid approach of the government it is evident that they want to drag the issue," the leader said, warning that the conference would soon lead protests in "an organised manner" to force the government to lift the siege.

Mehmood ur Rehman, a senior Kashmir administrator negotiating with the militants, once again ordered the guerrillas on Sunday to give up.

"Do not tax the government's patience. The time has come for you to surrender," Rehman told the militants during talks at the mosque in the curfew-bound Srinagar district of Nagin.

Meanwhile, Kashmir residents said the anti-siege protest strikes, curfews, and strict security enforced by troops have paralysed life and depleted food stocks of hundreds of Kashmiris.

They complained of spiralling prices and low rations because the stalemate between the holed up rebels and the army was dragging on.

Volunteers providing food to the hungry and poor said their stocks had nearly exhausted.

Hospital doctors here said the evacuaees were ailing due to growing food shortages in makeshift camps.

"There might be starvation deaths if the impasse continues," said Khalid Ahmed, a physician.

More than 7,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim- majority state, since 1989 when Muslim militants stepped up a campaign for self-rule in the Himalayan state.

Nine Killed in Kashmir; Hazratbal Quiet

BK1411032293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, nine militants were killed and 11 arrested in four encounters with the security forces in the past 36 hours. Sixteen AK rifles and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered. An official spokesman said in Srinagar that four militants, including a self-styled battalion commander, were killed and four others arrested in an encounter at Watargram in Kupwara District. Seven AK rifles were also recovered. Two militants were killed at (Ghore Patan) in Baramula District, two at Shupiyan in Pulwama District and one at Shalimar near Kishtwar in Doda District. The situation in the Hazratbal shrine area remains unchanged on the 31st day today. Precautionary curfew is now confined only to the localities adjoining the shrine. Security forces recovered some subversive propaganda material and other incriminating documents from the staff quarters of the Kashmir University which is adjacent to the Hazratbal shrine. Curfew is being lifted from Kishtwar town with the improvement in the situation. The curfew was imposed yesterday morning as a precuationary measure.

Unrest Reported in Uttar Pradesh; 'About 12' Hurt

BK1411155693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, about 12 persons—including three policemen—were injured when people of two groups indulged in stone throwing in Kanpur today. The police opened fire to disperse the violent crowd. The district magistrate told our Kanpur correspondent that an indefinite curfew has been imposed in Karnalganj and Bajaria police station areas as a precaution. He said police and central security forces have been deployed in the area and the situation is under control.

Maoist Forces Kill 11 Police Officials in South

BK1511050693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the Mahboobnagar District superintendent of police, Mr. Paradesi Naidu, and 10 others were killed in a land mine blast suspected to have been triggered off by Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] of the outlawed People's War Group at (Somasila) village yesterday evening. The police party was returning after investigating two cases of Naxalite violence in (Kolapur) village. Besides Mr. Naidu, other victims include two sub-inspectors and six constables. The deputy superintendent of police of Wanparti, injured in the incident, is reported to be in a critical condition. The chief minister, Mr. K. Vijay Bhaskar Reddy has condemned the attack.

Iran

Jannati Sermon Rejects Ties with U.S.

LD1211190493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Second sermon by Acting Friday Prayers Imam Ayatollah Jannati, in Tehran on 12 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I will refer briefly to some of the issues which have arisen recently—bearing in mind the fact that it is raining and that some of the dear worshippers are standing outside in the rain. One issue, something which has been in the air for some time and with respect to which, the eminent leader [Khamene'i], with his extremely valuable and decisive remarks, put an end to the mischief, was the issue of relations with the United States.

Some people made certain remarks, with whatever motivation—at any rate, certain issues were raised and some people were gradually repeating and spreading certain whispers, trying to turn it into the issue of the day. But his eminence put an end to all of that with his remarks. And his remarks were of such an illuminating nature that, in all fairness, they should be broadcast again and again on radio and television and be published as an extremely lucid essay, so that they will remain as a memory in everyone's mind.

I will refer briefly to some of its points. First, the basic reason why those people who mention such things—without ulterior motives or ill-will, who do so thinking it is a matter of interest—their main reason is fear and weakness and lack of strength in the face of events.

The enemy always resorts to threats. It uses pressure and force. Now, too, you can see that it is achieving many of its goals with force and pressure. It has done exactly the same thing in the past. However, wherever a big wave-breaker has stood strongly before it, it has withdrawn. This is the most natural thing and the experience of our own revolution has made it clear.

Well, they are putting pressure on us now. Whenever we want to strike a deal, to buy or sell something, to reap some benefit, to do something that will prove effective for our country's future, they immediately interfere and create obstacles with their interference. It is as if they want to say, if you want to survive, relations must be established; in other words, you must surrender. And by surrender they clearly mean unconditional surrender. They have shown throughout their history that they recognize no limitations [on themselves]; they want unlimited power. They want absolute and unconditional surrender.

Wherever they are penetrating now and wherever they are imposing their power, that is their intention. What is their intention in Palestine? What do they intend to do with the Arabs and Muslim countries? If all they wanted was to plunder their wealth, some people might decide to say: We cannot tolerate the pressure, we will surrender our wealth so that we do not have to put up with pressure. But do you think that would be enough for them? They want political power. They want cultural power. They want to guarantee their own future. Ultimately and most important of all, they want to take religion away from the people. A religion that displayed that power even at the time of Mirza Shirazi [cleric who issued a religious decree forbidding the use of tobacco in Iran], when people's intellectual awareness was not even as high as it is today. Consider how strong that power is today, when the people's awareness has advanced by about 110 years and the people of the world and especially the people of this country have gained immense political maturity.

Well, now they will not desist until they uproot Islam and destroy people's beliefs. The issue is between resistance and enduring all pressure for a short period, after which relief will come. Or to surrender, accepting abjectness for ever, and putting out for ever the light that has been lit in this part of the world—on which hopeful eyes are fixed and which has become a source of hope—and dashing all hope for ever. That is the issue; there is no other. If some think that they can—through some ties, through some agreements and understandings—improve the situation; their thinking truly stems from ignorance, from feeble-mindedness, and a weak-will. This is the point that he graciously made in his statements: The issue of [our] weakness and [the enemy's] intimidation. Then he graciously said that those were the ones who always let revolutions go with the wind. That is, they, for various reasons, used to find access to centers of power and then when they occupied the seats of power the enemy used to impose on them any demands through exerting pressure and exploiting their fright. And they used to sign [all agreements imposed on them] swiftly. Just like Nasereddin Shah [one of the Qajar kings]. That is the secret.

If we want to safeguard our revolution we must definitely hold fast to our stances. Let me tell you this. Our political axiom: There is no God but God—from the start until now and as long as this revolution lasts—this sentence which has alway been repeated: Neither East nor West, Islamic Republic! [Crowd takes up the slogan]

Allow me please, so that our brothers and sisters do not remain in the rain too long. The Neither East Nor West bit is really [equivalent to] There Is No God, and the Islamic Republic bit is But God. Just as there will be nothing left of Islam if they take away the There Is No God But God, nothing will remain of the Islamic revolution if they take away Neither East Nor West from it. That is one issue.

Another issue that he [Khamene'i] referred to his political awareness. That is a truth which we must be very careful about. Especially those who deal with the young generation and university students—we ourselves have

responsibility in this regard—must be more careful. That is because a nation which does not have political awareness will be deceived, no matter what amount of good will it has. Today, even if one of our shepherds, who may be working on our borders, does not have political awareness they will exploit him. They will exploit a tent-dweller who has no political awareness. The smugglers will exploit him; various espionage traffickers will exploit him. When such is the case there then it is very clear how it could be in the cities, in the centers, in the scientific-cultural center.

Therefore, those who have a role in political-cultural affairs must recognize their duties well and carry them out properly. Of course, political awareness and prejudices, egoism and factionalism must not be mistaken for each other. Those must be definitely distinguished. The issue is that the people must have political awareness, know what goes on in the world, in the state, what is good for them, what is bad for them, what is the enemy's plan, and how those plans can be neutralized. That information they must have and they must make timely decisions. That is the meaning of political awareness.

However, occasionally, certain person or persons may use that as an excuse to impose on society themselves, or their group, or their own, or their group's prejudices, and under the pretext of politics force their own intentions. This has nothing to do with that matter and one should be very wary of it.

Our work must be based on piety, God's worship, good intentions, and trust in the people and the interests of the people, not our own interests, or that of our groups. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Remarks on U.S. Overshadowed in Majles Debate

LD1411142093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles] held an open session today. During the session the Majles speaker referred to the lofty position of the Majles and said: The Majles is at the head of all affairs on the orders of the demised imam and is the center of the manifestation of the nation's will. He said: The Iranian constitution and the Assembly of Experts have brought about the honor of the Iranian Majles becoming one of the most powerful parliaments in the world, from the viewpoint of law [az nazar-e qanun] and the viewpoint of authority [ekhtiyarat].

The Majles speaker added: The powers of the Majles are within the two dimensions of legislature and supervision. Unfortunately, the second dimension has been given less attention. The Majles is dutybound to supervise what it approves so that laws are carried out correctly. The Majles must have supervision over the performance of the country's executives and supervise their actions. It is empowered to give warning to executives, put questions to ministers, and carry out investigations and impeachments. Those are the rights which the constitution specifies for the Majles and Majles deputies, and no other person enjoys the same rights in the system. Those are the definitive rights of the Majles.

Nateq-Nuri added: At the moment we have some 17 cases of investigation of organizations, establishments, and various organs. These must be investigated and the results announced from this very podium so that the people are informed. Their reports must be submitted to the Majles in open sessions.

This has been done regarding the Voice and Vision, and those who requested this investigation began the task with the cooperation of the Majles Islamic Culture and Guidance Committee. Whatever they investigated they put at the disposal of the Majles.

The Majles speaker stressed: We do not want to claim that whatever investigation we carry out all tallies with the truth [motabeq ba vaqe']. Not all investigations may tally with the truth. It is a matter for the Judiciary establishment, which can later investigate and issue a verdict.

The Majles speaker, praising the members of the Islamic Culture and Guidance Committee who were charged with investigating the performance of the Voice and Vision, criticized the method of the response made by the Voice and Vision to the investigation report and called it wrong. Nateq-Nuri stressed: The very excellent and instructive programs that are being broadcast by various sections of the Voice and Vision throughout the day cannot be overlooked, and we are all grateful to all the sincere, religious, and sympathetic employees and praise them.

The Majles speaker then referred to recent statements made by the leadership regarding the rejection of any ties with America and said: Unfortunately, the debate about the Voice and Vision caused less attention to be paid to the rare guidelines of the exalted leadership—which emenated from his most caring heart—and, in reality, made them pale. However, in our media, and in our minds and thoughts, that is an insignificant matter. What is significant is the issue of America and the world arrogance, and the stances that the exalted leadership have adopted in this regard. In all fairness it has the same formidability of his eminence the demised Imam.

The Majles speaker, referring to some sections of the statements of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, added: A point which must be noted by all of us is that he says, with deep vision, tha: maintaining relations with America is to the loss of nations and states, and brings nothing for nations but loss and the plunder of their interests.

The Majles speaker added: I tell the exalted leadership on behalf of the Majles that the Assembly has the honor to have always been your follower and obedient to you.

and still is and, God willing, will be. It never fails for a moment to follow and obey you and your divine stance. The Majles speaker, addressing the leadership, stressed: Once again we pledge ourselves to you and will follow you in the path of the struggle against world arrogance, and our slogan is always the same: Death to America.

'Alleged U.S. Neutrality' in Middle East Contested

NC1411060093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1755 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The American capital, Washington, Thursday was the scene of a meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the Zionist entity, and U.S. President Bill Clinton. Talks focused on two major subjects: U.S. military and financial aid to Israel and ways to push ahead on the Arab-Israeli negotiations, particularly along the Syrian-Israeli track.

It seems that during the meeting the American President promised Rabin to supply his country with sophisticated weapons and military equipment, including the sale of sophisticated F-15 aircraft and the extension of technical, financial, and military assistance to Tel Aviv. Clinton also promised to cover the expenses involved in the redeployment of the Zionist troops in the Gaza-Jericho region, which amounts to $150 million.

The extension of such military and financial assistance to the Zionist enemy is in fact linked to the nature of bilateral ties, as well as the nature of the two sides' viewpoints on international issues and events. Political observers believe that the United States is trying to demonstrate the extent of its obligation to push ahead the wheel of negotiations between Arabs and the Zionist entity through its continued extension of military assistance to Israel.

The unique American-Israeli relations have cast their shadow darkly on the talks, particularly after Clinton's arrival in the White House, although the United States reiterates that it is a neutral party to these talks.

To learn about the nature of the alleged U.S. neutrality, we have to take a quick look at the assistance Washington offers to Tel Aviv. America provides Israel with $3-billion worth of assistance annually. The larger part of this assistance is usually allocated to the purchase of sophisticated weapons and military equipment. All this happens as Arab states continue their peace negotiations with Tel Aviv. Such an attitude clearly contradicts any U.S. claim of neutrality and at the same time means that America still views the Zionist entity as a strategic reserve in the region.

Clinton's new promises may not be exclusive to the extension of sophisticated weapons and equipment to the Zionist entity. These promises might be a green light to Rabin's government and its policy in the occupied territories. All these positions and promises mean that Israel is still vital for American strategy, in spite of the fact that the Cold War has ended. Therefore, by strengthening the Zionist entity politically, militarily, and economically, Washington might be seeking to encourage Rabin to realize his goals.

These promises and developments conflict with the Israeli peace claims. If Israel truly wants to achieve peace, why then does it show that feverish interest in strengthening its military capabilities? If America is truly honest in its claims to give impetus to the Middle East peace process, why then did it turn the usurper entity into a military power and a regional arsenal?

All that was really achieved was that the peace negotiations between the Arab states and Israel have stopped as a result of the Israeli attitude and policies. Tel Aviv is trying to act outside the framework within which the idea of holding talks developed; that is, outside the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions. The Zionist policy in this context is to open the door for negotiations separately with individual Arab states and present the peace formulas that suit its quest. Such a policy is of course rejected by world public opinion.

What remains is the issue of the continued U.S. military and financial assistance to Israel despite the latter's stalling and its violation of the general framework of the peace negotiations. It is obvious here that the United States is trying to intensify pressure against Arab states by enhancing Israel's military power to force these states to make further concessions.

The American peace uproar absolutely does not agree with its promises of further military assistance to Israel; it reflects the blatant contradictions in the American policy.

Commentary Asserts Declining Support for Peace Talks

LD1311180993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] During the first visit to Washington by Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister of the Zionist regime, after the signing of the PLO-Israeli accord, U.S. President Clinton repeated his solemn pledge to strengthen Israel's extraordinary military superiority in the region.

Political experts assess the head of the Zionist government's visit, taking place two months after the agreement with 'Arafat, to be connected with the developments of the compromise and its internal and external problems. Although the signing of the accord brought many political benefits for the Zionist regime and transformed many of the unattainable goals—from Israel's point of view—to achievable ones, it brought increasing problems in its wake as well.

One of the most difficult internal problems for the present Tel Aviv government is the gradual loss of the support of public opinion and internal bases. Since peace is incompatible with the Zionist society, that society is showing stronger reactions with the growing seriousness of the issue. The rebellion by the inhabitants in the Zionist settlements in Gaza—who have been armed and given military training by the Zionist regime's army—and their blind attacks, although taking revenge on the ranks of Palestinians, was a protest reaction that the Zionist community was showing towards the ostensibly peaceful policies of the Zionist regime.

But what was more painful for the Israeli Government was the unprecedented defeat of that regime in the municipalities elections which have wrested many of the traditional bastions from the hands of the ruling party and put them at the disposal of the extremist Likhud coalition. The loss of general support for Rabin's moves has slowed down his stride.

That difficulty of Rabin's is not confined to the internal arena. In the foreign arena the passage of time has failed to attract and mobilize Palestinian public opinion for the Gaza-Jericho accord. The intifada is pursuing its objectives in full strength, and the revelations about the participation of elements from the Fatah movement, which is led by 'Arafat, in anti-Zionist operations have created a darker vista for the architects of the compromise and have more seriously raised the question that if 'Arafat is unable to take the elements under his control out of the anti-Zionist intifada how will he be able to control the whole of the intifada and extinguish it?

The PLO-Israel accord has not shortened the distance between Damascus and Tel Aviv. Some political experts believe that the distance has even grown. Syrian leaders refer to the accord as a disruptive factor in finding a comprehensive and just peace in the region. In fact, the more time elapses between the PLO-Israel accord and any likely future agreement between Damascus and Tel Aviv, the more the opposition to the compromise within and outside Israel will find more power, extent, and organization. In fact, Rabin's is hurrying to go to Washington to prevent the momentum of the developments which are disintegrating the compromise.

By proposing in Washington secret and direct talks with Arab governments, Rabin is trying to bring the task to an end away from pubic opinion and other effective regional variables opposed to the compromise, and face the people with a fait accompli. In fact, in the Washington talks the Zionist regime's prime minister is seeking to repeat the experience of the secret 'Arafat-Tel Aviv talks. That means the transfer of the Middle East crisis from an Israeli-Arab confrontation to a phase of the confrontation of the Arab governments and nations.

In the course of the meeting, Clinton has tried to turn Israeli public opinion in Rabin's favor by expressing economic, political, and military support for the Rabin government and has pledged to put new aircraft and new anti-ballistic missiles at the disposal of Israel. America has promised to strengthen Israel's weapons and military superiority over the regional states. If America and Israel are to truly bring peace to the region what need is there for combat weaponry for guaranteeing Israel's military superiority? It has to be said that the Israeli peace is an armed peace and under the auspices of American force and pressure.

Italy Seizes Equipment for Nuclear Reactor Bound for Iran

BR121124893 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 12 Nov 93 p 23

[Giorgio Cecchetti report: "Nuclear Consignment Bound for Iran Seized"]

[Text] Venice—Equipment produced by Ansaldo that could have been used for manufacturing nuclear reactors was seized at Porto Marghera yesterday. It was bound for Iran, and the confiscation order was signed by prosecuting attorney Felice Casson after two technical advisers reported that the materials could potentially be used for military manufacturing purposes, though the accompanying documents merely stated that the goods were intended for civilian production. On the same day, agents of the Venice DIGOS [General Investigations and Special Operations Division] visited the Headquarters of Ansalado in Legnano, near Milan, and of Fagioli in Reggio Emilia, which was organizing the transport, where they seized the documents concerning the consignment.

It comprises eight steam condensers for nuclear power plants—huge enameled [vetrificati] cylindrical metal containers, 6 meters high and no less than 18 meters long, now stored on the premises of a road haulage firm in Marghera, very close to pier A. They reached Venice's industrial port along the Po valley via Cremona, in order to avoid the freeway. They were supposed to leave by ship, but the Venice customs authorities siezed them, believing that the equipment needed special export authorization from the Italian Government.

Their assessment was proved correct by the technical ruling sought by the Venice public prosecutor's office. On the one hand, Giorgio Montagner argued that the eight steam generators constitute "equipment that should be considered strategic, high-technology material, whose country of destination is a high-risk one," while customs officer Domenico Tedeschi pointed out that, even before the new law on exports of this kind of equipment, which became effective in July, it was necessary to obtain special authorization from Foreign Trade and Finance Ministries.

That was when the magistrate acted, also signing a warrant authorizing a search and the seizure of documents at the Milan offices of Ansaldo, one of the jewels in Finmeccanica's [Mechanical Engineering Finance Company] crown, and at the Reggio Emilia offices of Fagioli. The Venice investigators are trying to establish whether, in order to get the eight condensers to Tehran,

an attempt was made to conceal their real destination, by making it appear that it was Germany, by means of a kind of "triangulation" intended to conceal the actual purchaser.

In any case, Germany has a not insignificant role in this affair. The eight condensers have a very long history: The original order for eight steam generators dates back to 1980 and was placed with Breda Termomeccanica in Milan (which subsequently became part of Ansaldo components) by KWU, a German firm in the Siemens group that apparently intended to use them within the context of an order relating to a nuclear-electric power plant in Iran. With the outbreak of the Iranian-Iraqi war, the trade embargo prevented the final delivery to the client. So the generators (four of them completed, the other four only partly finished) were left lying in the Milan factory for years, KWU paying the storage charges. When it was decided to close down the production site in 1991, the German firm arranged for their transfer to Porto Marghera. The generators aroused protests and controversy at the time they were moved.

Just four months ago, Casson also seized six heat exchangers from the Milan firm of "Bv. Pharmes" bound for the Iranian "Farayaz" company, officially for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals; but a SISMI [Intelligence and Military Security Service] report revealed that they had been paid for by the Iranian defense minister. [as published] In July this year new legislation at last came into effect. The Foreign Trade Ministry decree regulates the granting of authorization for the export of all equipment that could have dual use, both civilian and military. In past years this ambiguity about the use of much equipment permitted the export of strategic materials from our country to Libya, Iran, Iraq, and other "high-risk" countries.

Iranian Spokesman Comments on Incident

NC1411080393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The spokesman for the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO] has announced that the seizure of steam condensers by Italy does not have any direct relation to Iran. He said Western propaganda has ulterior motives in this regard.

In his remarks to IRNA, Shirzadian stated: In view of the Germans' commitments with regard to the construction of the nuclear power plant in Iran, Tehran has asked the Germans to fulfill them, but the German government is reneging on doing so. Once again, he called on the Bonn government and the Siemens Company to implement their agreement on the Bushehr power plant project. He added: The generating equipment that is the subject of propaganda belongs to the Siemens Company and is being stored in a warehouse of an Italian company. It has no connection to the Islamic Republic of Iran. We have asked for a clarification from the Siemens Company.

Report on Missile Production Denied

LD1311145193 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA—Iran on Saturday [13 November] denied a claim by a British paper that it was cooperating with Syria for production of cruise missiles or financing the manufacture of a version of Scud missile by North Korea.

An informed source at the Defence Ministry asserted that despite enjoying good political relations, Iran and Syria have never had any joint plan to produce sophisticated cruise missiles.

The claim was raised by the TIMES of London in its Friday issue.

The Defence Ministry source also refuted as "baseless" allegations that Iran had undertaken to finance production of missiles by North Korea.

Such unfounded claims are raised by Western media in line with the political gains of their respective governments.

Naval Exercises Staged in Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz

LD1211145593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Joint amphibious Wa al-Fajr 1 exercises were successfully staged today in the coastal waters of the Persian Gulf and the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

[Correspondent] In the joint exercises, units from the First Naval Region of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and fast flyers from the Ninth Bandar 'Abbas fighter base, utilizing the latest techniques and offensive-defensive equipment, put their experience and military preparedness to the test, and they were highly successful.

The forces participating in the Wa al-Fajr 1 joint amphibious exercises, which lasted a few days, carried out precision operations involving reconnaissance and mopping up mined shores, underwater destruction, transporting troops and equipment from warships to the shore, assault boats attacking and capturing bridgeheads, mopping up liberated areas, and defending the forces against counteroffensives by an imaginary enemy.

During the exercises, flight units of the Ninth Bandar 'Abbas Fighter Base, in a number of coordinated sorties, bombed positions of an imaginary enemy and gave extensive air cover to the active units of the First Guards Corps Naval Region and the Armed Forces in the sector.

Italian Delegation, Rowhani Discuss Bosnia, Arms Buildup

LD1411193293 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani, here Sunday [14 November] told head of the parliamentary friendship group of Italy, Senator Antonio Graziani, that the role of European countries in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in North Africa sharply contrasted with their claim to democracy.

He said the division of Bosnia-Herzegovina was a lawless novelty that might be followed by other countries in the future.

Rowhani rejected reports of the foreign media on Iran's alleged arms build up, saying after the end of the imposed war Islamic Iran has modified certain of its defense industries for non-defense purposes.

He said certain Western politicians are angry with the Islamic Republic simply because the Iranians do not wish to see their genuine culture being polluted by exotic, unislamic western cultures.

Graziani for his part offered a report of developments of interest in his home country.

UK Visa Delay for Jannati 'Deliberate Snub'

LD1211164693 Tehran IRNA in English 1317 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] London, Nov. 12, IRNA—The Home Office said Friday [12 November] that no decision had been made to grant a visa for Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati to attend this weekend's international conference on Bosnia, organized by the Muslim parliament.

A spokeswoman said that the application was "still under consideration" but the delay effectively makes it too late for Ayatollah Khamene'i's representative for Bosnia to take up his invitation to address the conference.

A similar fate has befallen Shaykh Ezzeddin, head of foreign relations for Lebanon's Hizballah Party, who had applied through the British Embassy in Damascus.

Normally officials are given priority clearance when wishing to visit other countries, which is usually just a formality. Certainly this should have applied in the case of Ayatollah Jannati, who is also a member of Iran's Council of Guardians and substitute Friday prayer leader for Tehran.

The refusal by the British Government to automatically grant a visa can only be seen as a deliberate snub that is expected to again provoke a diplomatic row between London and Tehran and one that could have far reaching implications.

Ayatollah Jannati has previously strongly criticized the UK's hostile attitude towards Iran. At Friday prayers in Tehran earlier this year, he called on the Foreign Ministry to seriously reconsider its relations with London.

The UK already has a record of preventing Bosnian officials to visit London that has been interpreted as showing its bias against the legitimate Sarajevo government and its connivance with the Serbian aggression in the 18-month tragedy.

It is being suggested that the latest action can be seen as further evidence of Britain's deceitful policy, which is attributed to exacerbating the conflict.

The world conference on Bosnia and the global Islamic movement opens in London Saturday. Its agenda is to discuss the historic background to the tragedy, the ineffective roles played by the West and its implications for other Muslim minorities in Europe.

Speakers attending include representatives from the Islamic movement in Lebanon, Palestine, Albania, Tunisia, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Sudan as well as the Bosnian vice-president, Ejup Ganic.

Members from Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front based in Paris were also invited but have been prevented from attending by last week's wave of arrests in France.

Jannati Condemns UK

LD1311112193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The British Government has prevented the representative of the esteemed leader [Ayatollah Khamene'i] for Bosnia-Herzegovina affairs from taking part in a conference on Bosnia. In this two-day conference, which is being organized by British Muslims and starts in London today, the issue of Bosnia and Serbian aggression will be discussed.

Ayatollah Jannati was due to take part in that conference as a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but the British Government prevented him attending by not issuing him with a visa.

Ayatollah Jannati stressed in an interview that the British Government is aware of the Islamic Republic of Iran's sensitivity about Serb crimes in Bosnia and Western support for them and fears that the Iranian representative might make a speech and issue a paper to this conference about this. That is why it refused to issue him with a visa.

The representative of the esteemed leader in Bosnian affairs said it is a fact that whenever Muslim countries try to prevent the genocide of Muslims in that country they are faced with acts of obstructionism and opposition by Western countries, especially by England, France, the United States, and Russia.

German Embassy Denies Allegations on Suspension of Ties

LD1311090993 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA—The German Embassy here categorically denied reports by the Saudi paper "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT" alleging that Bonn has decided to suspend its cultural and scientific relations with Iran.

Interviewed by IRNA, a spokesman for the embassy Saturday [13 November] termed the allegations as "sheer lies" and rejected all the fabrications published by the London-based Saudi paper.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Tuesday wrote, inter alia, that Bonn has suspended its cultural and technological ties with Tehran after being increasingly criticized by Western countries.

According to a diplomat here, the objective behind such fabrications is to misrepresent Iran's foreign policy.

He added that repeated fabrications by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT which supports interests of the Zionist regime, has discredited the paper.

In the past, too, the paper has made extensive efforts to present Iran as a serious danger threatening sovereignty of the Persian Gulf regional states.

To encourage regional countries to purchase weapons from Western companies which are suffering financial problems after the end of the Cold War, is apparently among many objectives behind such allegations against Iran.

According to political analysts the German Government is trying to act independently in its international decision-makings, especially towards the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The U.S. authorities have repeatedly criticized Bonn for ignoring U.S. call for exerting pressure on Iran.

The press office of Iran's Foreign Ministry has also rejected fabrications published by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT'S.

Daily Warns Turkey Against Attacking Kurds in Iran

NC1511111693 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 15 (AFP)—An Iranian newspaper on Monday [15 November] warned Turkey against launching military strikes on Kurdish rebels hiding out in Iran.

"Any action taken against our sovereignty and national security will face a strong reaction from Iran," said the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI daily.

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller "should be strongly warned not to overstep her limits or she will have added to her problems," it said.

Ciller, in a meeting Friday in Ankara with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ala'eddin Boroujerdi, proposed that Iran and Turkey root out Kurdish rebels in the Iranian region of Maku, close to the border with Turkey.

Otherwise, Ciller warned, Turkey would act on its own to protect its interests. The prime minister did not elaborate, but the Turkish news media said she had called for unilateral cross-border operations against the Kurds.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI blamed the Kurdish rebellion in Turkey on "Ankara's weaknesses and abnormalities in its policies."

"Turkey should be warned against adopting such old tricks in covering its internal problems," it said. "Throwing the ball in another's court would only worsen the situation."

During a visit to Ankara last week, Boroujerdi said that Iran was ready to help Turkey solve its internal security problems.

The Marxist Kurdistan Workers Party has been waging a guerrilla war for secession in southeast Turkey.

UN Delegation, Larijani Discuss CW Ban

LD1411215993 Tehran IRNA in English 2109 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—A U.N. delegation headed by Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Ian Kenyan held talks here today with Vice Chairman of the Majles Foreign Policy Commission, Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Kenyan who is the executive secretary of the introductory commission on chemical weapons at The Hague arrived in Tehran for a three day official visit Saturday [13 November].

Larijani described chemical weapons as extremely dangerous to the world, and said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been very active in activiating the organization as well in preparing the necessary organs needed for implementing the conventions that require destruction of chemical weapons.

Kenyan said the United Nations would do its best to make sure that the conventions prohibiting manufacture and deployment of chemical weapons are carried out by all nations throughout the world.

According to the convention member states must destroy all their chemical weapons within 10 years and allow their chemical complexes to be regularly inspected by the Hague-based orgnization.

Iran was the victim of the Iraqi forces' chemical attacks during the eight-year imposed war (1980-88), when the world mutely watched the repeated use of deadly gasses against Iranian positions prior to the infamous Halabjah holocaust (march 1988) perpetrated by Baghdad on its own Kurdish population.

In related news, an United Nations chemical probe team headed by John F. Scott, is also in Iran to investigate into reports of Iraqi chemical attacks against the marshland Arabs. Over 5,000 have sought refuge in Iran's Khuzestan province over the past few months.

UN To Probe Iraqi CW Attacks on Marshlands

LD1411173893 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—An expert delegation of the United Nations arrived in Tehran Sunday [14 November] to probe into Baghdad's chemical bombardment of the southern Iraqi marshlands.

The delegation headed by representative of the United Nations special commission on Iraq, John F. Scott comprising nine physicians and chemical arms experts will visit Iranian border areas in the south to examine the evidences of the Iraqi army's chemical assaults as claimed by the marshland Arabs.

Iraqi refugees fleeing the southern marshes into have claimed that the Iraqi army attacked their hometowns with chemicals to supress the growing opposition to the regime.

Iraq Charged With 30 Cease-Fire Violations

LD1211165593 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] United Nations, N.Y. Nov. 12, IRNA—Iraq violated its ceasefire with Iran 30 times in July, Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi said in a letter to the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on November 5.

At least half of the violations, according to Kharrazi's letter, were in form of provocative infiltrations into the Iranian territory by armed counter-revolutionaries that are harbored in Iraq.

The provocative acts of Iraq also included violations of the Iranian airspace by two Iraqi fighters on July 15.

Other instances of ceasefire violations by Iraq ranged from unwarranted strengthening of border posts by Iraq near the Iranian of Khorramshahr, shooting at civilian targets this side of the border in Khorramshahr, installation of automatic machine guns at the border and digging infiltration trenches at parts of the border between the two countries. [sentence as received]

As a result of clashes between Iranian border guards and invading counter-revolutionaries from across the border three Iranian border guards lost their lives and one was badly wounded.

Meanwhile, three villagers in the Iranian border areas were killed in one attack by the counter-revolutionaries, another four were wounded, and also eight civilians were abducted by the counter- revolutionaries in the village Savoji near Marivan for whose release their kidnappers demanded a ransom of five million dollars.

The counter-revolutionaries were each time either chased back to Iraq or pushed back by the fire of local forces this side of the border.

In some instances their warlike operations were accompanied by looting and other belligerent acts. Iran's representative at the United Nations had requested that his letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Over 40,000 Iraqis Enter Khuzestan, Tehran

LD1211195093 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] The head of Iran's Red Crescent Society says more than 40,000 Iraqi refugees who have entered Iran through the southern borders are living in Khuzestan and Tehran provinces.

Inspecting Red Crescent Society projects in the southeastern Kerman Province Thursday, Mr. Dastjerdi said the necessary measures are being taken for the settlement of more than 4,000 Iraqi refugees who have recently come to Iran through the southern borders.

Mr. Dastjerdi later criticized international organizations and particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross for neglecting the Azeri refugees.

He added that the Red Crescent Society has so far set up seven camps inside the Azerbaijan Republic's territory for more than 41,000 displaced Azeris.

Afghan Foreign Minister Arrives, Hails Cooperation

LD1311223993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The Afghan foreign minister arrived in Tehran on Saturday night at the head of a high-ranking political delegation to meet and hold talks with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In an interview with IRNA upon arrival, Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala described as necessary the participation of the people of his country in that country's presidential elections and stressed: The President of Afghanistan must be chosen by the people.

He added: If the United Nations has a constructive plan for the return of peace and stability to Afghanistan, we will welcome it. The Afghan Foreign Minister also welcomed the cooperation of neighboring Islamic countries, which can play a positive role in restoring calm to Afghanistan. He described ties between Tehran and Kabul as historic and he called for the expansion of bilateral ties in economic and political fields. He said that the assistance of Islamic countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, is necessary for the revival of his country's economy.

Reviews Situation With Velayati

LD1411171593 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Visiting Afghan Foreign Minister, Hedayat Amin Arsala and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan Sunday [14 November].

Amin Arsala briefed Velayati on the process of restoration of peace in Afghanistan and said that despite some scattered calshes outside Kabul, the situation was improving.

He said the cooperation of the ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) member states with his country was useful in beefing up Afghanistan's economic capacity and maintaining security in Afghanistan.

Amin Arsala hailed Iran for providing necessary facilities for the return of Afghan refugees.

Velayai in return underscored the need to increase cooperation among the regional countries within the framework of ECO and expressed hope for economic development in Afghanistan.

The two officials also agreed to take preliminary measures to activate Iran-Afghanistan joint economic commission.

The latest developments in the region, the situation in Tajikistan and the clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan republics were among other issues discussed in the meeting.

Amin Arsala heading a high ranking diplomatic delegaiton arrived here Saturday evening.

Meets President

LD1511111893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received visiting Afghan Foreign Minister Amin Arsala this morning. In the course of this meeting Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: What seems to be important and essential in Afghanistan at the present is to create unity, coordination, and solidarity among that country's jihad groups so that stability and tranquillity returns to Afghanistan.

Expressing concern for the disturbance of security and stability in Afghanistan, the president stressed: Accepting a position of responsibility in that country now means serving the Muslim and suffering people of Afghanistan. The reconstruction of war ruins, the removal of the difficulties, and the creation of comfort and peace for the people require realism, insight, and greater self-sacrifice by the Afghan authorities.

In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: It is expected that all the jihad groups of Afghanistan, through joint cooperation and exchange of thoughts, will think of the country's prosperity and progress; and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as before, will not refrain from offering guidance and assistance in rebuilding Afghanistan.

At the start of this meeting, the Afghan foreign minister thanked Iran for its principled stances and assistance to the Afghan people and refugees, and presented a report on the latest developments and the situation in Afghanistan.

Referring to the approaching winter and fuel shortage in his country, Amin Arsala asked for more help from Iran to solve this problem.

'Futile' Civil War in Afghanistan Deplored

LD1511095593 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES here Monday [15 November] commented on the ongoing visit here of Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala and regretted that Afghan leaders are exhibiting a gross lack of understanding of their position in the world Islamic movement.

The editorial noted that this lack of understanding had turned Afghan leaders to "involuntary consumers" of Western manufactured arms in "a futile and devastating civil war."

It referred to the the statements that Arsala made upon arrival here yesterday in which he called on the world, Muslim nations in particular, to help Afghanistan to rehabilitate its economy.

"Don't you think that your request for assistance in the rehabilitation of the Afghan economy appears rather absurd at a time when the principal political groups in Afghanistan...are busy planting mines all over Afghan's vast territory in order to kill their Muslim brother and gain more political power, instead of plowing the field and grow wheat?"

It further added that Afghan statesmen who exhibited great valor and self-sacrifice during Afghanistan's resistance against foreigners now could not get over their "narrow-minded desire for greater group" and religious advantages even at the stage of drafting the country's constitution.

The daily concluded by saying that Afghanistan should "realize that no country in the world is prepared to extend financial assistance out of taxes paid by its citizens, to another country whose leaders can think of nothing than the devastation of their country and the massacre of their citizens."

Commentary: Aid to Afghanistan Contingent on Peace

NC1511082193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Borhanoddin Rabbani arrived in Pakistan yesterday as head of a high-ranking delegation. He met with Pakistani officials, including the president and the prime minister. Rabbani is the first president of a foreign country to visit Islamabad since Benazir Bhutto's government came to power last month. Bilateral relations and regional and international issues are among the topics of discussion between the officials from Kabul and Islamabad.

Pakistan is one of the countries that has strategic relations with Afghanistan. Throughout the Afghan mojahedin's 14-year war against the Russians, Pakistan extended great financial assistance to the Afghans and hosted more than 2 million refugees.

In the civil war between the jehadi groups, Pakistan favors an end to hostilities and the resumption of Afghanistan's reconstruction. Islamabad has always acted as a mediator in this, and the famous Islamabad Pact among the Afghan political groups, which was aimed at ending conflicts, is among the important steps that Pakistan has taken toward this end. Moreover, Pakistan wants an end to the civil war in Afghanistan and seeks the establishment of stability and tranquility in the region, paving the way for the repatriation of Afghan refugees. During the meeting between officials from Kabul and Islamabad, the Pakistani Government expressed its readiness to help in Afghanistan's reconstruction and has promised 100 million rupees in economic aid to the Afghans.

Of course, it should be noted that as long as the Afghan jehadi groups continue conflicts at home, they should not expect aid from their friends and neighbors. Neighboring countries and governments want a powerful Afghanistan and are ready to do their best for Afghanistan's reconstruction. However, this is contingent upon an end to the clashes among the jehadi groups.

Pakistan

Bhutto Ally Farooq Leghari Elected President

Vote Counting Begins

BK1311112093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The process of casting votes for the presidential election in Islamabad and at the provincial capitals came to an end at 1500 [1000 GMT] which was followed by counting of votes. Special sessions of parliament in Islamabad and provincial assemblies in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and Quetta were held for the election of the ninth president of the country. There has been a direct contest between the PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] candidate, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group candidate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad. Soon after the counting of votes, the chief election commissioner, Mr. Justice Naimuddin, will announce the results. The successful candidate is to become the third president of Pakistan to be elected under the 1973 Constitution. Those elected earlier were the late Fazal Elahi Chaudhary and Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

A spokesman of the Pakistan Islamic Front told Radio Pakistan's representative that their members have abstained from the voting process.

TV Confirms Victory

BK1311142693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Excerpt] PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] candidate Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has been elected as the new president. Announcing the result in Islamabad, the chief election commissioner, retired Justice Naimuddin, told a news conference that Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari of PDF secured 274 votes, whereas his rival, acting President Mr. Wasim Sajjad of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group, got 168 votes. Giving details, the chief election commissioner said Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari got 170 votes in parliament, 24 in Punjab, 39 in Sindh, 20 in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and 21 in Balochistan. Mr. Wasim Sajjad secured 108 votes in parliament, 17 in Punjab, one in Sindh, and 21 each in NWFP and Balochistan assemblies. [passage omitted]

Leghari Views Kashmir, Nuclear Issue

BK1311160693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, the president-elect, has said that he will strive to secure the cooperation of all political parties and groups so that work can be done for the progress and prosperity of the country and to strengthen democracy. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said that the Constitution clearly explains the duties and responsibilities of the president and he will adhere to them. This is necessary for democracy and the country. He said that the elected president does not belong to any particular party, but the whole country. He will strive to root out the ethnic, social, and political divisions from society. He said that the Pakistan People's Party and its allies have a long history of struggle against martial law and for the establishment of a system which will help lay a solid foundation for democracy. He said that he will wholeheartedly try to achieve a total consensus at national level on all major national issues.

Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said that those who elected him and the people of Pakistan want stability and he is very pleased with the fact that those who elected him have displayed a keen sense of responsibility. It augurs well for democracy and the country. He said that so far as the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution is concerned, the sooner it is repealed through parliament, the better it is for democracy and the country.

Farooq Ahmad Leghari said that the Kashmir issue, ending the Pressler Amendment, and incentives for foreign investment are of cardinal importance in our foreign policy. However, they are included in the responsibilities of the government's administrative department.

When asked about when the nuclear program was halted, Farooq Leghari said that it was halted during the Nawaz Sharif government. He said that our policy will be to ensure that Pakistan is allowed to continue its peaceful nuclear program and research. He added that Pakistan has no intention of manufacturing any weapon of mass destruction.

Leghari Comments on Victory

BK1411031893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] President-elect Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that he will work for political stability, progress, and prosperity for the country by keeping himself above party affiliations. Speaking to people in Islamabad who came to congratulate h..n on his election as president, he said he would maintain contacts with all political parties and groups to create a consensus on national issues. The president-elect said he would always welcome constructive criticism. He asked people to point out to him whenever they feel he has committed a mistake. Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said he will formulate a program soon to maintain contact with the people, as his origin is from the people themselves. He said he does not want to keep himself out of reach from the people.

Commenting on the presidential elections, he said although the campaign was very brief, it was tough and hard and the distinct victory was beyond his expectation. He said this victory was possible only because of the concerted efforts of the Pakistan People's Party and its allies. He said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif group members also cast votes in his favor.

Leghari Sworn In

BK1411093693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari was sworn in as the president of Pakistan at an impressive ceremony at Awain-i-Sadr [President House] in Islamabad today. He was administered the oath of office by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Dr. Nasim Hasan Shah. Mr. Wasim Sajjad and the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, were present at the ceremony.

After the oath, the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto; Mr. Wasim Sajjad; and the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Dr. Nasim Hasan Shah; congratulated the new president. Those present at the ceremony were the speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani; deputy chairperson of the Senate and deputy speaker of the National Assembly; provincial governors; PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Chairperson Begum Nusrat Bhutto; Mr. Sartaj Aziz; Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha; Maulana Fazlur Rahman; Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan; Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti; Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan; Mir Balkh Sher Mazari; Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi; Professor Khurshid Ahmad; president and the prime minister of Azad Kashmir. The ceremony, which was largely attended, included the judges of the Supreme Court, the chief election commissioner, elected representatives, services chiefs, diplomats, and high-ranking officials.

In a brief chat with newsmen on the (?occasion), Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said that democracy has taken deep roots after free, fair, and impartial elections enabling the smooth functioning of the parliamentary system in the country. Asked what would be his priorities, keeping in view the problems facing the country, he said the prime minister in her speech yesterday had already enumerated some of the priorities and his priorities would also be the same.

Talking to newsmen, the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, said that it is time now to build Pakistan on democratic lines and work for the betterment of the masses. She said they have now a president who had fought for restoration of the 1973 Constitution and who believes in the parliamentary democracy. She said she believed that he would symbolize the dignity of the state and there will be no interference in the functioning of the government. She pointed out that in a period of five years, there have been so many changes that there is a new president and almost all new ministers in the government.

Further on Oath Taking

BK1411144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] In Islamabad today, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari took oath as president of Pakistan. The chief justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Dr. Nasim Hasan Shah, administered the oath. The ceremony, held at the Darbar Hall of the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President House], was attended by the outgoing acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, and the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto. Also present on the occasion were political leaders; acting chairperson of the Senate; speaker of the National Assembly; federal ministers; provincial governors and chief ministers; the president and the prime minister of Azad Kashmir; chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee; three services' chiefs; the chief election commissioner; judges of the superior courts; and diplomats.

Mr. Farooq Leghari is an experienced politician committed to democracy and rule of law. He held important portfolios in the federal cabinets on four occasions.

Afterward, the president said having been inducted to the highest office, he no more belongs to any political party. He said he would strive for the rule of law, justice, and fair play, and see that politics is conducted with dignity and in accordance with the law and the Constitution. President Farooq Leghari said he has been persistently striving for restoration of democracy, and it is because of our struggle that democracy and parliamentary system are intact and taking root in the country. To a question about the attitude of the opposition, the president said the prime minister had expressed her determination to seek cooperation of the opposition and run the affairs of the country through consensus and cooperation. Likewise, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has also expressed his resolve to play the role of constructive opposition. Everything, he said, is moving in the right direction. He expressed the hope that the government and the opposition would conduct themselves in a spirit of accommodation and cooperation.

In reply to a question about the Eighth Amendment, Mr. Farooq Leghari said it would be his endeavor to work for curtailment of certain powers of the president. To another question, he said the unconditional support extended by MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] to the government is an encouraging sign. Through this, he said, the MQM has entered into the mainstream of national politics.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1039 GMT on 14 November in an Islamabad-datelined report adds: "Pakistan's new president Farooq Ahmad Leghari said here Sunday his country would seek improved relations with the United States. 'I am confident of improvement in the bilateral ties,' Leghari told reporters after he was sworn in by chief justice Nasim Hasan Shah."]

Talking to newsmen on the occasion, the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, expressed confidence that Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari would symbolize the dignity of the state while working as president. We now have a president who fought for the 1973 Constitution and believes in upholding the supremacy of parliament. It is really a great moment for all of us. The prime minister said we believe it is the right time to build a strong Pakistan.

The outgoing acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad; Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto; Speaker of National Assembly Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani; and the services' chiefs jointly called on the president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, at the Aiwan-i-Sader today after he had taken oath of office of the president. They congratulated him on taking over as the country's president and assured him of their full support and cooperation. Mr. Leghari thanked them all for their gesture.

Leghari Profiled

BK1411101193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Nov 93 p 5

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 13—President-elect Farooq Ahmed Leghari stands out from his distinguished predecessors for his background in varying disciplines.

His vast experience ranges from polo to politics, civil service to sports and from statesmanship to diplomacy. He has distinction of achieving top positions in every field.

Leghari was born in one of the politically active families of Punjab on May 2, 1940.

He received early education in Aitchison College, Lahore and graduated from the Punjab University in 1960. At Oxford he obtained the degrees of B.A (Hons) and M.A.

He joined the Civil Service of Pakistan in 1964 and served in different capacities till 1973, when he resigned to enter politics.

He started his political career as a joint secretary of Pakistan People's Party [PPP], D G Khan district in June 1973. He was nominated Finance Secretary of the Provincial branch of the party.

Leghari was elected to the Senate in August 1975 and to the National Assembly in March 1977.

He served as the Minister for production in the cabinet of late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He held the portfolio of water and power during the rule of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (1988-90). He also had brief stints as the Finance Minister and Foreign Minister in the caretaker Cabinet of Baikh Sher Mazari in summer this year and during the current government of Benazir Bhutto, respectively.

The present chief of the Leghari tribe, Sardar Farooq Ahmad, remained loyal to the PPP throughout the Zia period. He served a prison term of around four years. In the 1988 and 1990 elections, he won his NA [National Assembly] seat without any difficulty. During the 1990 polls, the PPP managed to bag only one seat from the D G Khan division—that of Farooq Leghari.

He assisted Benazir Bhutto in the opposition from 1990 to 1993 as Deputy Leader of the PPP in the National Assembly.

By heading the PPP in the Punjab Assembly briefly during 988, he became one of the very few politicians to have served the National Assembly and a provincial assembly.

During the 1993 elections he bagged the highest number of votes—over 95 thousand—for a National Assembly seat. Leghari has the honour of representing Pakistan in the United Nations General Assembly in 1974 as a delegate. He also attended 63rd Inter- Parliamentary Union [IPU] Conference held at Madrid in September

1976 as a member of Pakistani Parliamentary delegation. He was a member of the IPU fact-finding mission on Namibia.

Being an avid sportsman he has represented the country in Asian Games in pistol-shooting in Bangkok and Tehran. Polo in his other favourite sport.

Leghari, being a multi-lingual has command over English and Urdu, besides major dialects of the provinces, like Punjabi, Saraiki, Balochi, Pushto and Sindhi. Being an inhabitant of the district, where the boundaries of the four provinces meet, Leghari understands the socio-cultural traditions of all parts of the country.

The Leghari tribe, he belongs to, migrated to the Southern Punjab during the late eighteenth centary.

When the British attacked the Punjab in 1848, the tribe sided with the Sikh rulers. Farooq Leghari's great-great-grandfather Jalal Khan however ultimately moved over to the British.

Jalal Khan later liaised with different Baloch tribes, such as Khetrans, on behalf of the British. He was bestowed upon the title of Nawab in recognition of his services.

Farooq Leghari's grandfather, Nawab Jamal Khan, took charge of the "commandari" of the Leghari tribe in 1916, and later represented it as a member of the Punjab Legislative Council.

In 1936, the Nawab was appointed honorary Extra-Assistant Commissioner in his district. He also served as a Magistrate and a Civil Judge and was later knighted by the British.

Sardar Jamal Khan joined the Muslim League in 1946, but following partition, he retired from active politics.

Farooq's father, Sardar Muhammad Khan Leghari served as Minister in three Punjab cabinets—those of Mian Mumtaz Daultana, Sardar Abdul Hamid Khan Dasti, and Sir Feroz Khan Noon. Later he joined Ayub's Convention League.

One of Farooq's uncles, Mahmud Khan Leghari served as Commissioner, Multan Division, while another uncle, Sardar Atta Mohammad, has also been active in the electoral politics of the area.

His aunt, Afifa Mamdot, was a Minister in the Zia regime.

Farooq Leghari is the father of four children.

Bhutto Addresses Nation on Leghari Election

BK1311180493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1635 GMT 13 Nov 93

["Address to the nation" by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on 13 November; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the most merciful and compassionate. My dear brothers and sisters, Sardar Farooq Leghari has been elected Pakistan's president today. His success is the victory of popular struggle for the restoration of democracy. The objective of the popular struggle was to establish a society which was in keeping with the spirit of the 1973 Constitution. This victory has created political tranquillity in the country, and it is an occasion to rejoice for every Pakistani, whatever his party affiliation. I extend my greetings to the nation on this historic occasion.

Democracy and the rule of the Constitution move hand in hand. The Islamic, democratic, unanimous, and representative Constitution of 1973 was drafted through a consensus in the country. A dictator brought about changes in this Constitution according to his will and the nation had to suffer. It gave birth to regional conflicts, linguistic confrontations, and political uncertainty. The concept of cooperation between the head of government and the head of state was present in the original constitution. The women and men architects of the Constitution were sagacious people. The members of parliament, who signed this Constitution with total consensus, understood the thinking of the people who had drafted the Constitution. They knew that when the prime minister is being made the chief executive [preceding two words in English] of the country, that office should not be there for namesake only. Rather, he should enjoy full powers. The architects of the Constitution had made an appropriate distribution of powers in the Constitution. They were aware that if this was not done, the political system will face stagnation. They were aware of the possibility of the emergence of a constitutional crisis. The events, which took place in the country from the day the unconstitutional steps were taken and the Constitution was mutilated through unconstitutional means, have proved as correct the system that was enshrined in the original Constitution. Our country has seen seven prime ministers during the past seven years. Political stability of any sort could not at all be created.

Today, by the grace of God, we have been given the opportunity to correct past mistakes. Now both the president and the prime minister belong to the ruling alliance. Now they will take steps together for the progress and prosperity of the people. Some people fear that the cooperation between the president and prime minister will pave the way for authoritarianism. I assure you that these apprehensions are totally incorrect and baseless. The Pakistan People's Party [PPP] has always struggled against authoritarianism. We know the value and price of democracy and freedom. We can never think in a dictatorial manner.

Let me give you one more example of our democratic thinking. The PPP, Muslim League-Junejo Group, and the Muslim League-Nawaz Group had demanded in their manifestos the restoration of women's seats in the National Assembly. There was no difference on it at all. The opposition, however, is now changing its stand on the issue. The opposition says that the bill in the

assembly on this issue should be postponed; otherwise they will launch a protest. I am disappointed with this gesture. The opposition leader had pledged to cooperate on national issues. I hope they will review their new posture because we want to run the affairs in parliament with the cooperation of all parties. The opposition should not adopt a negative or adamant posture. The whole nation expects them to support us on decisions, which are in the nation's interests and on issues which they themselves mentioned in their manifestos.

Ladies and gentlemen! Now I would like to say something about Farooq Leghari. We found the best president for the country in the person of Farooq Leghari. He represents all the regions of Pakistan. He speaks Urdu, Pashto, Balochi, and Saraiki, as well as English. He is a man of character and principle. I extend my greetings to the whole nation on his election. The presidential election has driven the last nail in the coffin of horse-trading. The people's representatives rejected all sorts of temptations and voted on a political basis. Farooq Leghari received votes in the same pattern of representation as we and our allies secured in the national and provincial assemblies.

Ladies and gentlemen! It is a great moment of victory for the toiling masses of the country. The moment will be described in history as a juncture when an atmosphere of parliamentary democracy and political stability was created. I would like to extend my greetings to Wasim Sajjad for giving a good fight as a candidate of the Muslim League-Nawaz Group. Wasim Sajjad is a renowned lawyer who has served the nation as a law minister, chairman of the Senate, and the acting president. I express my good wishes for him on behalf of the government. I also invite the opposition to rise above party interests and thinking. It is the time to construct Pakistan; it is the time to give innocent children a smile in their faces and hope to the deprived youths. It is the time when we can grow the flowers of a bright future on our barren land. On this occasion, we have to join hands and lay the foundation for the construction of a great country in a united manner.

I would like to transform the aspirations of our people into reality so that every Pakistani can raise his head with pride. A great challenge is awaiting us. Come, let us take the step for changing our fate so as to ensure that the future of Pakistan proves to be an era of hope and happiness for the people of Pakistan.

Long live Pakistan.

Wasim Sajjad Congratulates Leghari, Stresses Cooperation

BK1311151693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has congratulated Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, on his election as the president. In a statement, Mr. Wasim Sajjad said the elected representatives have made their choice and I respect it wholeheartedly. He said Mr. Leghari has been elevated to the highest office in the country through a constitutional process in the best democratic tradition. He expressed the hope that Mr. Leghari will set up glorious traditions of upholding the Constitution, promoting rule of law, and furthering national interest. He assured his full cooperation.

Indian Troops Fire Across Line of Control; 3 Injured

BK1411142693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Indian troops continue to indulge in unprovoked and indiscriminate firing across the Line of Control on villages of Azad Kashmir. Reports say three persons were injured when Indian troops resorted to firing in the Nakial Sector and village (Datot) yesterday.

Minister Views Government Initiatives on Hazratbal Issue

BK1411143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The government has strongly reacted to the siege and desecration of Dargah [shrine] Hazratbal in Srinagar. The minister for law and parliamentary affairs, Dr. Sher Afghan, informed the National Assembly of various initiatives Pakistan has taken to raise the issue at world fora. He said the prime minister has addressed letters to a number of world leaders and the UN secretary general urging them to use their influence with India to end its repression in held Kashmir and engage in substantive dialogue with Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions.

Indian Allegation Against ISI Denied

BK1211101193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov 11: A Foreign Office spokesman has denied the statement made by General Joshi, the Indian Chief of Army Staff attempting to implicate the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] in the Hazratbal siege, says a press release. The spokesman said that Indian Chief of Army Staff's claim was baseless and without foundation. He regretted that an officer of such a high rank made a statement which had no foundation in fact.

Daily Opposes U.S. Mediation on Kashmir

BK1411132993 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 11 Nov 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Pakistan-U.S. Relations—No Need to Indulge in Any Wishful Thinking"]

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said after meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robin

Raphel that "a new window of possibilities for improvement in ties with the United States has been opened." Foreign Minister Farooq Leghari has said that Pakistan has accepted the United States as a mediator on Kashmir, while Robin Raphel herself has asked India to stop repression in occupied Kashmir.

Briefing reporters, a senior U.S. official said that final details are being worked out for a Pakistan-India agreement to declare Siachen as a nonmilitary zone. Under the agreement, which can be signed any moment, the two countries will stop their useless and expensive war on the roof of the world and pull back their respective troops from the Siachen region.

So far as the prime minister's claim about the opening of a new window for improving ties with the United States is concerned, her assertion does not seem to be correct in view of the stand taken by the U.S. assistant secretary of state on the Pressler Amendment, Pakistan's nuclear program, and Kashmir. The U.S. is still maintaining its intransigence and Robin Raphel has catagorically stated that the U.S. hands are tied in the presence of the Pressler Amendment and, so long as Pakistan does not roll back its nuclear program, a review of bilateral relations is impossible.

According to a press report, Pakistan's military leadership has rejected the U.S. proposal that Pakistan roll back its nuclear program and has made it clear to the United States that the military fully supports the government's principled stand on the nuclear program. How can one expect an improvement in bilateral relations in view of the U.S. condition and its rejection by Pakistan? Thus, the aforementioned agreement for withdrawal of troops from Siachen through U.S. mediation is beyond the comprehension of a common man.

Pakistan is rightful in claiming that the Siachen region is neither a disputed territory nor a no-man's-land. It falls within Pakistan's international boundary and India has imposed a war on Pakistan in its bid to occupy this bare region through deception and aggression. Then, how can Siachen be considered a nonmilitary zone—a non-Pakistani region—today? India, with the cooperation of the former Soviet Union, committed naked aggression in a bid to tighten the noose around China and Pakistan. It should therefore have been forced to pull out its forces from the occupied territory. The U.S. effort to put India and Pakistan on an even keel and to have them sign the agreement is clearly not in Pakistan's interest. Siachen is Pakistani territory and any agreement with India can be signed only on the basis of this stand. It would be better if Pakistan settled its problems with India directly on the basis of its principled stand without involving the United States in the affair. If the "roof" of the world was Pakistan's territory, it should still remain so and Islamabad should prove that it knows how to protect its soil.

Likewise, it is incomprehensible why Washington should also act as an arbiter on the issue of Kashmir. It is nonetheless a matter of satisfaction that the United States has begun to declare Kashmir as a disputed territory. Robin Raphel has reiterated her assertion at all three places—Dhaka, Delhi [as published], and Islamabad—and India has also protested against it.

It is, however, a reality that Kashmir is a disputed territory and the UN resolutions have provided only one procedure for its settlement, that is, the Kashmiri people should decide through a free, fair, and impartial plebiscite whether they want to accede to Pakistan or India. Since India itself approached the United Nations and accepted its resolutions, there is no need for any mediation on the Kashmir issue. Instead, India should be forced to implement the UN resolutions. The acceptance of the offer of mediation on Kashmir will mean that the country is also willing to accept some other solution to the dispute. Pakistan's interest lies in Kashmir remaining a part of this country and in view of the economic, social, cultural, and geographical links and the background of the partition of India, Kashmir must be a part of Pakistan. The great leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah described Kashmir as the economic lifeline of Pakistan.

Pakistan must not expect that the United States will do anything good in its favor. The new world order is currently being used against the Islamic world. A settlement has been imposed on the Palestinian Muslims against their wishes and aspirations and this task has been accomplished with the help of Washington's mediation. In Bosnia too, the Muslims are being made targets of cold-blooded murder and plunder. An effort is going on to kill every single Muslim there, but the United States has been playing the role of a silent spectator. In Kashmir, the Indian occupation forces are engaged in the genocide of Muslims and, at a time when the world is standing on the threshold of the 21st century, India continues to be a tyrannical and colonial power; and, ironically, the conscience of the world is a silent witness to all this. The United Nations is playing the role of an organization loyal to the United States. Even the Islamic community is not paying any heed to it and India continues to play its savage game freely. If the Arab states were only to enforce an economic boycott of India, the Kashmir problem could be resolved or at least Indian atrocities could be checked, but nobody cares about it.

The newly elected government of Pakistan should remain firm on its principled stand instead of being browbeaten by the United States and should not declare the mere visit of an assistant secretary of state as a "new window." The United States has closed its main door to Pakistan and refuses to supply F-16 aircraft even after receiving payments for them. So then, why will Washington open any window to Pakistan? Pakistan must protect its own interests and should never think of abandoning its principled stand on Kashmir, Siachen, and the nuclear program.

Afghan President Arrives for Official Visit

BK1411153193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The president of Afghanistan, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a brief official visit. The president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, received the Afghan president at the airport. Federal Ministers Mohammad Afzal Khan and Mr. Nasirullah Babar; the secretary general of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam-Fazlur Rahman Group, Maulana Fazlur Rahman; and politicians, high-ranking civil and military officials, and members of the diplomatic corps were also present to greet the Afghan president. Afghanistan's senior vice president, Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Minister for Higher Education Ostad Seyyed Omar, Minister for Water and Power Seyyed Mohammad Ayub, presidential adviser (Mohammad Sayeed Hashemi), Acting Minister for Information and Culture Mr. (Ishaq Hossaini), and Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Mohammad Jalil Shams are accompanying Professor Rabbani.

Meets With Bhutto

BK1411161893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Formal talks between President Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan and the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, were held this evening. During the talks, which lasted two and half hours, the two leaders discussed the question of transit trade agreement between the two countries, other issues of bilateral relations, situation in occupied Kashmir, and regional and international issues. The prime minister announced 100 million rupees economic aid to Afghanistan besides 10,000 tons of sugar. Before the talks, the Afghan president and the Pakistani prime minister had a meeting without aides. Earlier, the Afghan president, who was leading a 35-member entourage, was given a warm welcome on arrival on an official visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport among others by the president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari.

Leaves for Cairo

BK1511083793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] The Afghan president, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, left Islamabad for Cairo this morning at the end of a brief official visit to Pakistan. He was seen off at the airport by the president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari; the federal minister for Kashmir affairs and northern areas, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan; and others.

Sri Lanka

'Massive Attack' by LTTE Launched 11 Nov

'Fierce' Fighting Reported

BK1111110693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] The Ministry of Defense says that a massive attack was launched by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] early hours of this morning at the Pooneryn Army and Naval defenses in the Mullaittivu District. It is reported that fierce fighting is still continuing. It is believed that the casualties on both sides are very high.

Tigers Smash Military Defenses

BK1111075093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0726 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Report by Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 11 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas smashed army and navy defences in northern Sri Lanka Thursday and escaped with an entire armoury after killing or wounding over 200 security personnel, defence officials said.

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) @aunched the pre-dawn assault on the Pooneryn military complex after breaching its defences on two flanks, officials said.

"It is a very big scale attack. All we know at the moment is that the casualties are very high on both sides," military spokesman brigadier Nalin Angammana said.

Defence sources said that the battle lasted for about seven hours and the Tigers escaped with the entire armoury of the military facility.

"It is a big blow to the security forces. They seem to have been routed by a very large Tiger assault force. A lot of senior officers were among the casualties," a military source here said, adding that at least 200 soldiers were feared dead or wounded in action.

Helicopter gunships came under attack preventing them landing reinforcements at Pooneryn on the northern edge of mainland Sri Lanka, the sources said.

The Nagathivanthurai naval base located within the Poonery facility was destroyed by the Tiger raiding force, killing an unspecified number of sailors there, official sources said.

The military said that the navy had some patrol craft at the base but it was not immediately clear if the Tigers had destroyed them or taken the boats away with them.

The exact number of fatalities on both sides was not immediately available.

"The Pooneryn coastline was very thinly held and it would not have been dificult for the Tigers to breach the defences. This is a big setback and a blow to troop morale," a defence official said.

Security forces wrested control over Pooneryn from the LTTE early last year and used the area to enforce a blockade on the northern Jaffna peninsula, the main heartland of the separatist Tamil rebels.

The latest LTTE offensive came barely five weeks after the security forces conducted an operation against guerrilla boat traffic in the region. Troops lost some 118 soldiers dead and claimed to have killed more than 200 rebels in that operation.

Thursday's attack was also the second major setback for the security forces in four months since a similar attack on an army camp in eastern Sri Lanka when Tigers escaped with a large haul of weapons after killing 48 troops in July.

Tiger guerrillas are leading a campaign to establish an independent homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Forces Regroup After Attack

BK1211075993 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0701 GMT 12 Nov 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 12 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—A special communique issued on Friday [12 November] by the operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defence in Colombo states the security forces are in the process of re-organising and consolidating their positions at Pooneryn in northern Sri Lanka which came under heavy LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attack on Thursday morning.

Action is now being taken to induct additional troops as reinforcements to assist the troops still in the area.

Yesterday, under very heavy resistance from the LTTE, the security forces were able to re-group a major portion of the troops in that area. Until reinforcements are in position and the situation brought fully under control, the casualty figures of the security forces cannot still be declared with certainty, the communique states.

However, it is likely that casualties may be heavy. Technical sources have confirmed that the LTTE too has suffered very heavy casualties.

The service commanders are personally supervising and directing the operations from the main security bases in the north.

'Heavy Casualties' in Jaffna Battles

BK1211124293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Major battles erupted early yesterday when LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists launched attacks on the (Nahadawanturai) naval camp and the Pooneryn army camp situated alongside the Jaffna lagoon. The Defense Ministry said that the terrorists and the forces personnel fought pitched battles up to noon yesterday. Both sides are reported to have suffered heavy casualties. Communications with these camps situated in the upper border of the Killinochchi District were disrupted since early yesterday. Reinforcements and fighter aircrafts were dispatched to the area immediately. Unofficial sources spoke of over 300 LTTE casualties and nearly 200 forces casualties. Pooneryn lies approximately two miles South of the coast linking the mainland with (Taraitivu) on the Jaffna peninsula. It is the same distance from (Nahadawanturai) too, which lies to its northeast on the Jaffna lagoon's South coast. The area is crisscrossed by a large stretch of forward defense line which the LTTE was reported to have attacked with all the arms at its disposal. Official reports say that the fighting is still continuing.

UNHCR Halts Work, Evacuates Staff

BK1111114493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] The United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] has said that it has suspended its operations in Sri Lanka's war-torn northern area. A statement issued yesterday said that all four staff members working in Madu have been evacuated by Tuesday, leaving only one UNHCR radio operator in Jaffna. The statement said that the decision was taken on security grounds, calling the serious incident which occurred on the 30th of last month in that area. This is the sixth in a series of demonstrations which started in mid-August 1993. These have since then become increasingly violent and future demonstrations of this kind cannot be discounted. In the circumstances, the UNHCR states that it is no longer able to carry out its humanitarian mandate without getting the security of the staff at risk.

LTTE Plot To Assassinate VIP's Uncovered

BK0711114293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Plots by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to blow up several VIPs at the late President Premadasa's funeral and to assassinate an opposition political leader were uncovered by the police last week. They were uncovered by detectives investigating the activities of ex-policeman (Muttukumaru Mahendran), one of LTTE's key operatives in Colombo. His name was linked to the LTTE's suicide bomber's kit recovered

from the Modera beach early last month. According to investigators, (Mahendran) who got his orders directly from the LTTE's intelligence chief, Pottu Amman, was in charge of two women suicide bombers. They were sent from Jaffna to create chaos in the city following the assassination of President Premadasa. The two women who arrived in the city two months before the bombing of the president were to target VIPs who would be attending the president's funeral. It was not known whether the women left for Jaffna after the aborted mission or went underground awaiting for the instructions. Meanwhile, the arrest of a 24-year-old alleged suicide bomber by the police in Colombo south last week revealed a Tiger plan to kill a prominent opposition politician. The man from Jaffna town had arrived in Colombo in May with orders to build up close links with the politician's friends in order to get close to his target.

Bid To Forcibly Resettle Refugees Criticized

BK0911111393 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 2 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Where Will They Go?"]

[Text] A large number of Tamil-speaking people, who have been displaced from their localities due to the continuing violent incidents, have been living in refugee camps as a last resort. They have been leading this kind of miserable life for the past three years. The efforts to resettle them in their own localities have not yielded the desired results. Even those who were resettled were constrained to return to the refugee camps due to the insecure atmosphere, continuing hardships, and threats prevailing in the places of their resettlement. Although the Tamil people are living in refugee camps amidst a lot of inconveniences, where they have to struggle hard to get even basic amenities, they feel that it will be a dangerous move to resettle in their localities where normalcy has not yet been restored. This is the root cause for their refusal to return.

Meanwhile, 8,000 inmates of the Madhu refugee camp staged a daylong protest in the area against the government move to forcibly evacuate them. Reports say that about 29,000 refugees are living in Madhu (Thiruppathi) camp, which is being run by the United Nation's High Commission for Refugees. Only people from Vavuniya and Mannar are living in this camp as refugees.

The government asked the refugees to return to their localities pointing to the fact that a major portion of Vavuniya District has been brought under army control. It also set a deadline for their return and cut off all assistance. As a result, the refugees staged their protest en masse. None of them became refugees of their own volition. They were constrained to become refugees due to the prolonged and unnecessary conflict as a result of the political conundrum in the country. They are living in camps after sacrificing their relatives and friends as well as their wealth and comfort. One should try to understand the suffering and frustrations undergone by these refugees today on humanitarian grounds. The financial constraints being faced by the government to take care of the refugees and to rehabilitate them also cannot be underestimated. More and more people are becoming refugees due to the continuing conflict. It is very distressing to note that the government's actions under these circumstances are leading the people, who were forced to become refugees, to more hardships.

The refugee camps will automatically disappear if peace is restored in the country through a proper solution to the ethnic conflict. On the other hand, the decision to close down refugee camps abruptly and the attempts to halt assistance will further distress innocent people. Where will the helpless Tamil-speaking people go, if they cannot live peacefully in their own localities as well as in refugee camps? The people concerned should come forward consider this with a cool head.

Minister Outlines Budget Proposals in Parliament

BK1111133493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] The minister of justice and state minister of finance, Harold Herath, presented his budget proposals for the year 1994 in Parliament yesterday. The proposals aim to create employment and boost exports and economic growth. The minister called on the private sector to invest savings resulting from tax cuts in job creating enterprises. Cooperate tax has been reduced to 35 percent. Several proposals have been introduced to streamline the turnover tax system.

The minister proposed that 180 million rupees be allocated as relief for government servants who retired before 1 January 1985. Payments to these persons will be made in accordance with their basic wage. Those who retired after this day are to be paid on the consolidated wage basis. The minister said that these measures will remove disparities in the pension system.

Sri Lankans employed overseas for more than one year will be permitted to obtain duty-free items for one month after their return. This will enable them to purchase goods from duty-free shopping complexes outside the airport.

A 3.5 percent defense levy will remain in force. The minister said that this tax is a temporary measure made necessary by the emergency situation in Sri Lanka. It would not cause inflation.

The employment tax credit for private sector employees will be raised from 1,800 rupees to 6,000 rupees from 1 April 1994. Accordingly all employees earning up to 89,500 rupees per annum will not pay income tax.

The government will give top priority to the export sector. The minister proposed a new incentive package for this sector. A uniform tax treatment will be given for the Board of Investment and non-Board of Investment

enterprises in future. Companies with an unexpired tax holiday period exceeding four years as on 1 April 1994 could opt to pay at a nominal rate of 10 percent during the 20-year period in lieu of the balanced tax holiday. Exporters of non-traditional products and specified services will qualify for the preferential rate of tax from 1 April 1994. The minister proposed that tax holidays should not be granted for resort hotel projects. Approved resort hotels will qualify for the preferential rate of 15 percent over a 15-year period. Tax holidays will also be denied to infrastructure development projects. However, such projects with an investment exceeding 250 million rupees will also qualify for a preferential rate of 15 percent for a 20-year period.